

Sc  
917.702  
W73d

Gc  
977.702  
W73d  
1208954

M. L

GENEALOGY COLLECTION



ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01084 9500









The Story of  
Winthrop, Iowa  
1857-1957

by

Diane Gail Dey

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
OF  
FORT WAYNE AND ALLEN COUNTY, IND.





# Table of Contents

1208954

Chapter

Page

## AUTHOR'S FOREWORD

vii

### I. AT THE BEGINNING

A. 1857-1957	1
B. Passing of the Glacier	1
C. County Origin	2
D. The First White Men	3
E. "Firsts" in Byron	3

### II. EARLY SETTLEMENT

A. The Original Village Survey	5
B. Village Receives Name	5
C. Pine, The First Post Office	6
D. Railroad Brings Village	7
E. The Great Snowstorm	7
F. The Telegraph Arrives	8
G. New Addition	8
H. The First Schoolhouse	8

### III. TOWN GOVERNMENT

A. The Village Incorporates	10
B. From Plank to Cement	11
C. Fire Protection	12
D. The Calaboose	12
E. Water Works	13
F. Lighting System	14
G. Parks	17
H. Budget	18
I. They Called This Law	18

### IV. "MAIN STREET"

A. Merchants	21
B. Business Threat	23
C. Saloons and Prohibition	24
D. Medicine	25
E. Opera House Burns	27
F. Passing Fancies	28
G. Banking Institutions	28
H. Before 1900	30

Smoky Hill 16000

V. RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS .....	33
A. The Baptists .....	33
B. The Ridge .....	34
C. On Zion's Hill .....	38
D. The South Summit .....	40
E. The Seventh Day Adventists .....	44
F. Old Time Religious Thoughts .....	45
VI. THE SCHOOL .....	46
A. The School Plant Before 1900 .....	46
B. The School Plant, 1900-1940 .....	47
C. The School Plant, 1940-The Present .....	48
D. Tuition, Rules, Curriculum Before 1900 .....	49
E. Curricular and Extracurricular Activities After 1900 .....	51
F. Sports .....	52
G. School Days! .....	53
H. The P.T.A. ....	54
VII. SOCIAL GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND RECREATION .....	56
A. Early Social Groups .....	56
B. Entertainment .....	56
C. Popular Sports .....	57
D. Dances and Bands .....	58
E. Picnics and "Outings" .....	58
F. Organized Groups .....	59
G. The Masonic Lodge .....	59
H. The Order of the Eastern Star .....	60
I. The Odd Fellows .....	61
J. The Rebekahs .....	61
K. The Royal Neighbors .....	62
L. The King's Daughters .....	62
M. The Woman's Literary Club .....	62
N. The Garden Club .....	63
O. The Lions Club .....	63
P. The Library Association .....	63
Q. The Cemetery Association .....	64
R. The Civil War .....	65
S. The Spanish-American War .....	66
T. World War I .....	66
U. The American Legion .....	67



V.	The American Legion Auxiliary .....	67
W.	World War II .....	68
X.	The Korean War .....	68
VIII.	TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION .....	69
A.	The I.C.R.R. ....	69
B.	Horses and Oxen .....	72
C.	"Wheels" .....	74
D.	The Auto .....	75
E.	U. S. No. 20 .....	77
F.	The "Aeroplane" .....	77
G.	"The Winthrop News" .....	78
H.	Mail Delivery .....	80
I.	"34A Please" .....	82
IX.	CENTENNIAL SURVEY OF SUNDAY OBSERVANCES .....	86
A.	Purpose of Questionnaire .....	86
B.	Religion .....	87
C.	Sunday Recreation and the Law .....	91
D.	Entertaining and Food .....	92
E.	Family Worship and Altar .....	93
F.	Work on Sunday .....	93
G.	Holidays .....	94
H.	Changes in the Home .....	94
I.	Word Usage .....	94
X.	A CENTURY OF LIVING .....	96
A.	Fourth of July Celebrations .....	96
B.	Vagabond Escapes Lynching .....	97
C.	The Heavens Above .....	97
D.	Money, Money, Money! .....	97
E.	Tapping .....	98
F.	Tragedy Strikes .....	98
G.	Winthrop Doctor Poses for Grant Wood Painting .....	99
H.	Gee! Haw! .....	100
I.	Prowler Terrifies Town .....	101
J.	This Made News .....	101
K.	Kidnapped .....	101
L.	Good Samaritans .....	103
M.	Well-known Ornithologist .....	103
N.	A.P. and A.J. ....	103

O. Chautauquas .....	104
P. The Unusual .....	105
Q. "Outlaws" .....	105
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	107
APPENDIX .....	109

## List of Tables

<i>Table</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Mayors .....	109
II. Comparison of Merchants (1904 1957) .....	109
III. Congregational Church Pastors .....	111
IV. Methodist Church Pastors .....	112
V. Catholic Priests .....	112
VI. School Superintendents .....	113
VII. Civil War Soldiers Buried in Fairview Cemetery .....	114
VIII. World War I .....	115
IX. World War II .....	116
X. Station Agents .....	117
XI. Postmasters .....	118

## Author's Foreword

Many of us know of the life in a small town because a great many Americans come from rural communities. Perhaps, you, the reader, live or have lived in just such a village — a place where little of seeming importance happens, day after day passes in the same tiresome routine, quiet, uneventful, yet somehow pleasing. It is surprising then to look back a century, and find how things have changed, what progress has been made, and the events that have accumulated over the years.

This, then, is the story of one small Iowa town. The various phases could have been elaborated upon, but by touching all points the writer hopes to put forth the over-all idea that small towns are the backbone of America. From them emulate all that goes into making a full and rich life.

Many persons and many papers have contributed to the compiling of this book, which was originally written as a thesis in partial fulfillment of the Bachelor of Arts Degree in the Department of Sociology of Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa. The author is deeply grateful to her mother, Mrs. Beryl Smith, who has spent numerous hours on research and aiding in many other ways. She also wishes to thank her stepfather, Beryl Smith, for his encouragement and support. The author thanks her student advisor, Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Head of the Sociology Department of Cornell College, for his supervision and assistance. Also, she expresses her gratitude to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Harrington for the use of the Winthrop newspaper files and to Reeves Hall, editor of the Independence papers.

The author also wishes to thank those who have given helpful assistance in obtaining data and pictures, Mrs. Arley Merrill, Byron Merrill, Willis Merrill, Edgar Bloom, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Dunlap, Lee Griswold, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Wenholz, Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Smith, J. S. Marling, Mrs. Maurice Sherren, Mrs. Ronald Davis, Mrs. Carrie McKay, Rev. Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Faris, Father E. J. Supple, Earl Mulford, Dr. H. A. Housholder, Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Matson, Dr. A. J. Murphy, Miss Martha Osterhaus, Mrs. Francis Cooksley, John Hunter, Mrs. Kenneth Braden, J. S. Luther, Mrs. Leonard Peterson, Mrs. Gordon Donlea, Mrs. Arly Braden, Mrs. Willard Gates, Delmar Fairchild, Ronald Collins, George



Brubaker, Miss Gail Griswold, Mrs. Maurice Conrad, Mrs. I. L. Hand, Mrs. Hazel Ownby, Mrs. John Pierce, Mrs. Charles Jones, Mrs. Edna Hawkins, Mrs. Albert DeGrief, Robert Quigley, Mrs. Anna Allyn, Mrs. Leta Marshall, Miss Marjorie Miller, M. F. Cheever, Fred Pierce, and to all others who have generously contributed information. The author also wishes to thank all those who cooperated in the centennial survey. Any errors that may have been made are unintentional.

Diane Gail Dey

Monroe Street  
Winthrop, Iowa  
April 1957

## At the Beginning

### *A. 1857-1957*

Buchanan is an important agricultural county in the northeastern part of Iowa. It is surrounded on the north by Fayette County, on the east by Delaware, on the south by Linn and Benton, and on the west by Blackhawk. In a history of the County the layout of the township is described:

"The county is twenty-four miles square and divided into sixteen townships each six miles square making four tiers each, containing four townships."<sup>1</sup>

Byron, one of the sixteen townships, was established March 20, 1856. The only village in the township, Winthrop, located in the extreme southeast corner of the area, will celebrate its one hundredth birthday in 1957.<sup>2</sup> This is a history of the first one hundred years.

### *B. Passing of the Glacier*

Over fifteen thousand years ago Buchanan County was covered with the Iowa glacier. The county was not only visited by one but three glaciers. Jay Partridge, county extension director reports:

"These glaciers were huge ice masses several thousand feet thick, pushing down from the north during periods of extremely cold weather.

Between glaciers were periods of weather as warm or warmer than today. These glacial and inter-glacial periods probably covered at least two hundred thousand years of time. The last glacier to visit this county is called the Iowan.

As the glacier moved down from the north, it picked up huge quantities of earth and rock. Some of these rocks were ground into powder, while others remained as boulders at or near the land surface."<sup>3</sup>

As the ice melted rich soil was deposited in the flood plains from the Wapsipinicon river and other streams, such as Pine Creek, west

- 
1. Harry Church Chappell and Katharyn Joella Chappell, *History of Buchanan County, Iowa, and Its People*, Vol. I, pp. 5-6, 65. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1914.
  2. Winthrop, Iowa was first platted and laid out as a village in 1857 by A. P. Foster. *Ibid.*, pp. 230-232.
  3. *Independence Conservative (Independence, Iowa), 100th Anniversary Edition*, Sept., 1955. By Jay Partridge, county extension director, Section D.

of Winthrop and Buffalo Creek, east of the village, running from north to south. The soil left by the glaciers developed into productive farm lands "found by Buchanan county's first settlers over one hundred years ago."<sup>4</sup>

Percival says:

"The surface of Byron township for the most part is rolling prairie, and the land is of excellent quality, being a black loam, but in the southwest it is hilly, and the land is light and sandy."<sup>5</sup>

Timber covers from three hundred to four hundred acres, and is situated along Buffalo and Pine creeks.<sup>6</sup> The site of Winthrop was a prairie, and the settlers had to plant shade trees.<sup>7</sup>

The glacial debris has lent the name of "Buchanan gravel" to the field of geology. These beds of gravel are strewn continuously for miles along the valley of Buffalo Creek in Byron township and Pine Creek in the western part of Byron.<sup>8</sup>

### *C. County Origin*

Until 1842, when some Indian tribes were moved to Kansas, Buchanan county had not been open to settlement by the whites. This territory was not particularly inviting because of the friction between Indian tribes.<sup>9</sup>

The east boundary line was established in 1837, but Buchanan and Delaware counties were for temporary purposes a part of Dubuque county. The legislative act which set up the county of Buchanan specified the same eastern, southern and northern boundaries that exist today. But the western boundary as originally specified extended to the Missouri river. Thus at one time, Buchanan county was twenty four miles in width and stretched over 240 miles in length.<sup>10</sup>

On February 17, 1843, the Iowa Territorial Legislature separated Buchanan county from Black Hawk county and established the western boundary. The county seat at Independence was set up on June 15, 1847."<sup>11</sup>

Buchanan county was named in honor of Senator James Buchanan of Pennsylvania, who later became fifteenth president of the United

4. Loc. cit.

5. C. S. Percival and Elizabeth Percival, *History of Buchanan County, Iowa*, p. 372. Cleveland, Ohio: Williams Bros., 1881.

6. Loc. cit.

7. *Buchanan County Bulletin*, (Independence, Iowa), April 24, 1868.

8. Chappell and Chappell, *op. cit.*, p. 71. "

9. W. L. Wallace, *Story of Iowa*, p. 39. Mason City, Iowa: Klipto Loose Leaf Co., 1945.

10. Percival and Percival, *op. cit.*, pp. 61-62.

11. Loc. cit.

States. He was "instrumental in the acquisition of the Wisconsin territory which included this county."<sup>12</sup> The county lies approximately in line with Boston, Massachusetts and Medford, Oregon.<sup>13</sup>

Chappell and Chappell show the course of the early trails:

"One of the first trails through the county carried not only a number of pioneer settlers on horseback and wagon but also a picturesque title of "The Mission Road." The trail was so named because it wended its way through an Indian mission or village in the Wisconsin territory. The trail began in the vicinity of Fort Atkinson in Winneshiek county and went south to Marion in Linn county. In Buchanan county the Mission road went almost straight south, going through what was later to become Winthrop and across the Wapsipinicon river at Quasqueton, which was a favorite fording spot in those early days."<sup>14</sup>

#### D. *The First White Men*

According to the census of 1847, Buchanan County's entire population numbered but 250 with few foreign born. One authority says the early immigrants were mainly from the New England states:

"The early settlers immigrating to Buchanan County from the states came namely, from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and the New England States, possibly more from Vermont than the other New England States. There were some of foreign birth, but they did not come in very large numbers until after 1858. They were mostly Germans and Irish, and a few Polanders and Scandinavians."<sup>15</sup>

In the 1875 *Historical Atlas of Iowa* the population of Byron township was 996; 593 males, 402 females, and one colored male. Of this number 389 were born in Iowa, and 553 in states excluding Iowa, with the balance being of foreign birth. There were thirty seven births in 1874 and eleven deaths.<sup>16</sup>

#### E. "Firsts" in Byron<sup>17</sup>

The first settler in Byron township was Henry Baker, who settled in 1844. He lived in the township for two years. In 1846, Robert

---

12. Conservative, Section A, Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955.

13. Conservative, Section D, Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955.

14. Conservative, Section K, Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955.

15. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 56.

16. Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa, p. 435. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875.

17. Material in this section was taken from Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., pp. 230-231, and 303.



Sutton settled in the township. He moved in 1856. Other early settlers in the township were S. L. Gaylord, Hamilton McGonigle, Isaac Freeman, and Nathan King.

The first township cemetery was established in 1875 and was called the Whitney cemetery. In 1854, the first school opened and was taught by Miss R. C. Freeman. Frank Freeman died October 23, 1856 and was the first white man to die in the township.

The first wedding was that of Robert Copeland and Louisa McGonigle in 1856. L. J. Dunlap was appointed the first postmaster in the township. The first white child born in the township was Thomas Sutton in 1852.

The first religious meetings were held in the southwest part of the township in the Bethel district.

A steam engine entered the county for the first time, December 12, 1859. Men worked all day Sunday, December 11 laying track to complete the Dubuque & Pacific railroad (now the Illinois Central).

The above geographical and topographical description of the County and territory provides a background for the first ten years of Winthrop in Chapter Two.

## Early Settlement

### A. *The Original Village Survey*

The only village in Byron township was platted and laid out into lots in 1857 by A. P. Foster. The original purchase by Foster was 240 acres, of which forty became the original plat of the town.<sup>1</sup> This plat is in the Recorder's Office in Independence, Iowa and was filed November 11, 1857. The *Buchanan County Bulletin* says "Winthrop is situated upon the southern slope of a high prairie."<sup>2</sup> The south boundary was the State Road which was declared as such in 1851 by the Legislature.<sup>3</sup>

### B. *Village Receives Name*

The name of the village was suggested by a friend of Foster, Mr. E. S. Norris, whose former home was Winthrop, Maine.<sup>4</sup> Foster's grandson, Edgar Bloom who now lives in Waterloo, Iowa, recalls that Foster was originally from Greene County, Wolcott, New York. He said that Foster and Norris had worked together as surveyors for the United States government in Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, and Wisconsin.<sup>5</sup>

An obituary of Foster says:

"Half of the land where now stands Minneapolis, he (Foster) surveyed in his early twenties when that city was but a settlement. When he came to Winthrop, he traveled from Dubuque in a wagon. In the spring of 1857, he plotted and laid out into lots this town of Winthrop . . . When the first railroad came to Cedar Rapids he did the surveying for it through that city. He recorded all deeds on the old Dubuque and Pacific railroad, now a part of the I. C. system."<sup>6</sup>

In regard to E. S. Norris' authenticity, a letter recently received from the present mayor of Winthrop, Maine revealed: "Elisha S. Norris had published his intention of marriage to Amelia W. Blake

1. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 232.

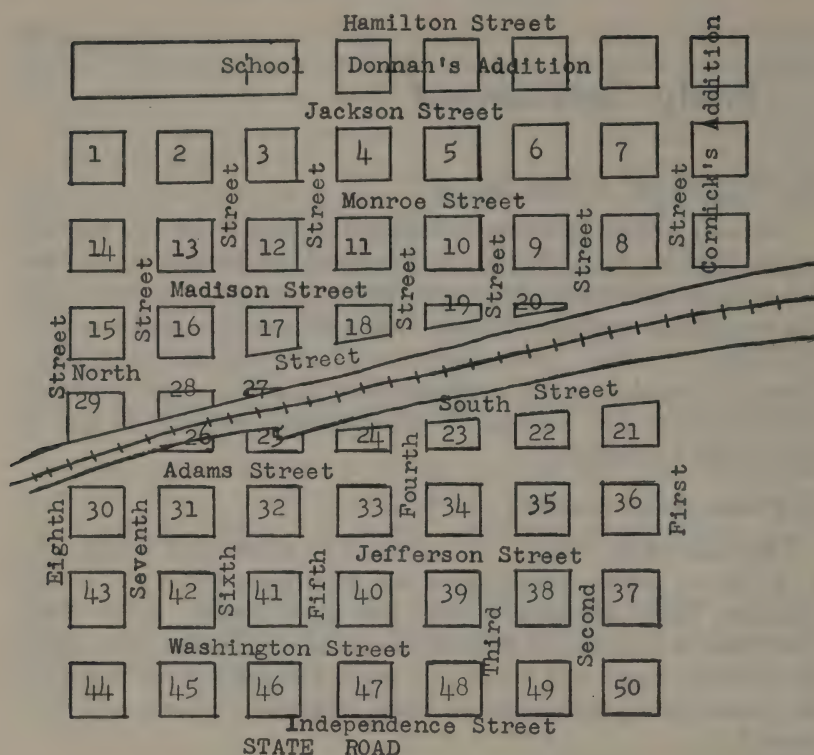
2. Bulletin, August 22, 1865.

3. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 295.

4. From a paper prepared by Jeanette Fox for the January meeting of the Woman's Literary Club. Published by The Winthrop News, (Winthrop, Iowa), February 9, 1922.

5. Interview with Edgar Bloom, Dec. 22, 1956.

6. The Winthrop News, March 22, 1917.



## TOWN OF WINTHROP

The original village plat consisted of fifty blocks. When the town incorporated in 1886, Cornick's and Donnan's additions had been added.

of Monmouth, on May 29, 1831."<sup>7</sup> This establishes the fact that an E. S. Norris had lived in Winthrop, Maine, during this time.

### *C. Pine, The First Post Office*

According to records of the Post Office Department, "The post office at Winthrop, Buchanan County, was established as Pine on August 12, 1853, with Isaiah Hearn as postmaster."<sup>8</sup> Pine was located in the northern part of Liberty township.

In reality, Lemuel J. Dunlap would be the first postmaster of Winthrop, receiving his appointment on May 21, 1857, but the post office operated under the name of Pine, until 1861.<sup>9</sup> Dunlap kept the mail

7. Letter from Town Office, Winthrop, Maine, Paul H. Bailey, mayor, Sept. 27, 1956.

8. Post Office Records now in custody of the National Archives and Records Service, Washington 25, D. C. Letter dated Sept. 11, 1956.

9. Loc. cit.

in an old trunk at his home on the State Road. This land is still in the Dunlap family and is located one-half mile west of Winthrop.

Also according to the National Archives and Records Service:

"Mail contract No. 9366, from Delhi (via Coffin's Grove, Quasqueton, and Pine) to Independence, was let on April 29, 1854, to D. W. Gould of Fremont, Ohio, 36 miles and back, three times a week in coaches, for \$300 per annum. This contract was transferred to E. S. Alvord of Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 30, 1854, who was paid \$300 per annum for delivering the mail six times a week."<sup>10</sup>

#### *D. Railroad Brings Village*

Chappell and Chappel said:

"The first two years of the existence of this town were not productive of much growth. The town merely existed on paper. However, the construction of the Dubuque & Pacific Railroad through the site in 1859 started the growth of the town . . . At 9 o'clock on the morning of December 12, 1859, the first regular train left Independence depot, taking the first shipment of produce, which was made by West & Hopkins and consisted of four tons of pork and 300 bushels of wheat."<sup>11</sup>

R. B. Crippen was the first station agent, and before an elevator was built grain was handled at the depot. Wagons were unloaded at the depot and then two men would carry bushel baskets and load the railroad cars. Mr. A. Dulton opened the first store.<sup>12</sup> The first hotel was started by Henry Cornick in 1860.<sup>13</sup> On August 13, 1860, the railroad was re-organized and became the Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad.<sup>14</sup>

#### *E. The Great Snowstorm*

Chappell and Chappell describe the great snowstorm of '61:

"The great storm or more properly speaking, a series of storms commenced on Tuesday night, January 15, 1861, and continued with intermissions of two or three days all through January and February up until March . . . The snow laid on the ground till into April."<sup>15</sup>

10. Post Office Records, op. cit., Sept. 19, 1956.

11. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., pp. 232 and 303.

12. Letter from L. W. Rich, Des Moines, Iowa, Pub. in *The Winthrop News*, July 1, 1909.

13. Buchanan County Journal, (Independence, Iowa), Obituary of Henry Cornick, May 20, 1882.

14. Illinois Central Rail Road Records from J. B. Corson, chief clerk to superintendent, Waterloo, Iowa, Sept. 6, 1956.

15. *Ibid.*, p. 318.



The same year the post office was established under the name of Winthrop on June 8, and Abbott E. Dulton became postmaster. It is probably at this time that the office was moved into the village.<sup>16</sup>

### *F. The Telegraph Arrives*

With the railroad still a novelty, excursion trips were being made between Cedar Falls and Manchester and to Dubuque in 1862. That same year there was much agitation over the prospects of a faster means of communication than train or mail. Finally in 1863 the first telegraph line from Dubuque to Jesup, passing through Winthrop, was completed.<sup>17</sup>

A tornado in 1863 did considerable damage to the village. A large grain elevator, built by John Palmer in the spring, was partially removed from the foundation, the depot was moved some distance, and several other buildings were unroofed and damaged.<sup>18</sup>

### *G. New Addition*

One of the first physicians to come to the village was Dr. H. C. Markham, who came in 1864 and stayed until 1878, when he moved to Independence.<sup>19</sup> A year after he came to Winthrop he "purchased a strip of prairie just north of the present plat, comprising ten acres, which he lay off into town lots."<sup>20</sup>

The religious societies organized by 1865 were the Methodist Episcopal, Baptist, and the Congregational.<sup>21</sup>

Important national news was the ending of the Civil War in 1865, and the assassination of President Lincoln.

### *H. The First Schoolhouse*

A man by the name of John Graham was the first teacher, who held classes in a small building located back of Main Street.<sup>22</sup> The first school house was erected in Winthrop in 1866, where the M. E. church now stands.<sup>23</sup> The first teachers were Miss McCurdy and E. S. Stockwell.<sup>24</sup>

16. Post Office Records, op. cit., Sept. 11, 1956.

17. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 313.

18. The Independence Civilian, (Independence, Iowa), July 13, 1863.

19. Biographical Souvenir of the Counties of Delaware and Buchanan, Iowa, Chicago: F. A. Battery & Co., 1890.

20. Bulletin, Aug. 22, 1865.

21. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., pp. 233-235.

22. Letter from L. W. Rich, op. cit., July 1, 1909.

23. Conservative, Oct. 26, 1866.

24. Paper by Jeanette Fox, op. cit., Feb. 9, 1922.



*Diane Gail Dey*



ALONZO P. FOSTER

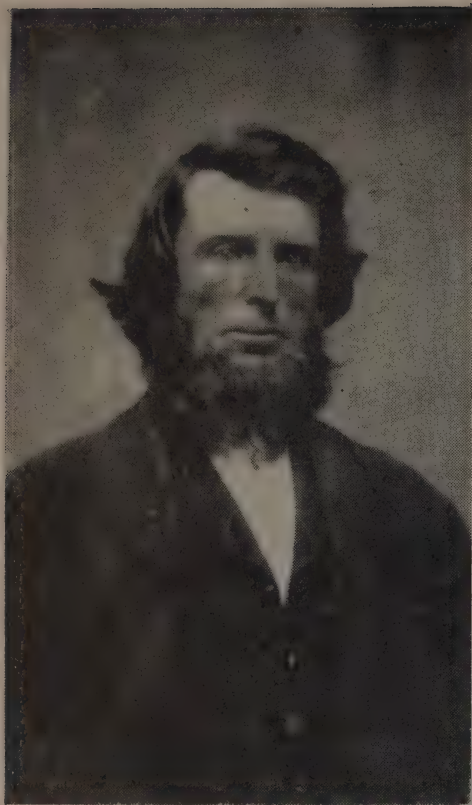
Founder of Winthrop. Born on a farm near Wolcott, N. Y., Oct. 25, 1823. Died at Winthrop, March 18, 1917. Surveyor for the U.S. government. Returned to New York in 1859 and married Susan Brown on March 3. Joined the Union Army for the last six months of the Civil War. Returned to Winthrop in 1866 and engaged in the hotel business.



SUSAN FOSTER

Wife of A. P. Foster. August 3, 1828-July 28, 1907. Four daughters, Mrs. Anna Grout (deceased), Mrs. Emma Brown Bloom (deceased), Mrs. Amelia Barger (died Feb. 1957), Mrs. Myrtie Bloom, age 87.





## LEMUEL J. DUNLAP

First postmaster. Born April 18, 1831, at Highview, Frederick Co., Virginia. Died April 3, 1899. During the gold excitement of 1849, he conducted a shop at Sedalia, Missouri, where he shod horses to cross the plains to California. He also worked his trade in the states of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. In his early life, before railroads were built, he was compelled to make his journeys by foot or stage. At one time he walked from his home in Highview, Va., to Eaton, Ohio, a distance of 400 miles. In 1855, he was married to Mary C. Potterf at West Alexandria, Ohio. They emigrated to Iowa the next year and settled in the home where he died. Three sons, Marcus, Eugene, Andrew, one daughter, Mary (Mrs. Nicholas Dennie).  
(Tintype)



## EUGENE DUNLAP

Only living son of Lemuel J. Dunlap. Born Nov. 26, 1866. Taken in 1869, when Mr. Dunlap was three years of age.

(Tintype)

The I.C.R.R. records show that on September 13, 1867, the Du-buque and Sioux City railroad was leased to the Illinois Central, but retained its corporate identity.<sup>25</sup>

At the end of the first ten years the *Buchanan County Bulletin* reported Winthrop as being the "second grain depot in the county . . . and the population three hundred and fifty."<sup>26</sup> Chapter Three will show how the village governed itself and its incorporation.

---

25. I.C.R.R., op. cit., Sept. 6, 1956.

26. Bulletin, April 24, 1868.

## Town Government

### *A. The Village Incorporates*

The village of Winthrop held an election on May 27, 1886, and voted the village incorporated as a town. The vote was 46 to 16, or about 3 to 1, in favor. The first mayor, N. Barney, was elected on July 7th by a 31-26 vote.<sup>1</sup> The first trustees elected were J. Palmer, S. Braden, A. Downing, A. Uhl, W. B. Halleck, F. C. Norman, and H. J. Griswold, recorder.<sup>2</sup>

Before the incorporation, the village law and order was administered by a magistrate, officers, or deputies. In the early days the deputies often assisted the county sheriff in saloon raids and the capture of horse thieves.

The new city council passed many ordinances as a step in the government of the village. An 1886 newspaper gave a resume of some of the important ordinances:

"Cattle, horses or hogs running at large are to be empounded by the marshall or any citizen and the owner to pay 25 cents and an additional sum for each day remaining in the pound.

If billiard tables are kept for gaming a license of \$25 per year is to be paid. All traveling salesmen or showmen are to pay a license of from \$1 to \$15.

All trees are to be trimmed so that no limbs shall reach lower than seven feet from the walk.

The town council may order any sidewalk to be built or repaired by giving owner of property fifteen days notice of same.

A fine is to be imposed upon anyone hitching a horse to a tree."<sup>3</sup>

Dogs were being assessed as early as 1887:

"Ike Pulis, the assessor says there are only three persons in town who own dogs. The dogs however all want to be assessed; we counted ten in his yard the other morning."<sup>4</sup>

After a year of incorporation a caucus was called and a hot campaign was fought. There were those in favor of strict enforcement of the corporation laws and moderation in corporation expenses, and those who were not in favor of the corporation and wished to increase

1. *Conservative*, June 2, 1886, and July 7, 1886. For a list of the mayors of the city see Table I.

2. Town records, Minute book, No. 1.

3. *Journal*, July 29, 1886, and Aug. 26, 1886.

4. *Ibid.*, Feb. 10, 1887.

the expenses to such a degree as to make the incorporation plan unpopular. Notwithstanding these issues the contest was to no little extent fought on personal grounds. D. W. Hovey defeated Mayor Barney with a vote of 45-31. After the results were known

"... the friends of the successful ticket held a jollification meeting and cannons were fired in honor of the lucky candidates."<sup>5</sup>

### *B. From Plank to Cement*

A petition to remove a barbed wire fence along Madison Street (Main Street) was presented the Council in 1888, and the Marshal reported it had been removed at the next meeting.<sup>6</sup>

The first sidewalks were made of two inch plank, three feet wide and the cross pieces were 4x4 inches and four feet apart. Later an ordinance was passed to widen the walks to four feet.<sup>7</sup>

An example of the citizens' concern for their village is expressed in their desire for improvements of the sidewalks:

"We most heartily wish our esteemed City Fathers, would spend a part of the tax money in hiring a man to go over our sidewalks and hammer out of sight, and out of feel the 15,000 more or less nails, that stick their ugly heads from a quarter to three-quarters of an inch above the planks. If a man or woman has a favorite corn or bunion some of these nails are certain to locate it. People going in the night, walk very gingerly, but for all the care they do not escape. Every little while you hear a feminine 'Ouch' or a masculine 'Gee whilekins' and other expletives and you know by experience, or by instinct that somebody has hit a nail."<sup>8</sup>

Cement sidewalks appeared for the first time in 1894:

"The new cement walk in the south part of town is the center of attraction on fine evenings."<sup>9</sup>

By 1900 all the old plank street crossings had been torn up on Main street and cement sidewalks placed on both sides of the street.<sup>10</sup> In a few years the wooden walk was becoming a curiosity.<sup>11</sup>

For many years the streets of the village remained about the same. In 1913, \$165 had been subscribed by some of the citizens for 30 car-

5. *Ibid.*, March 19, 1887.

6. Town records, Minute book, No. 1, p. 56-57.

7. Buchanan County Review. (Winthrop, Iowa), March 23, 1893, and April 18, 1895.

8. Review, Dec. 13, 1894.

9. *Ibid.*, Sept. 13, 1894.

10. *Ibid.*, June 21, 1900.

11 The Winthrop News, Aug. 9, 1906.



loads of gravel for the streets.<sup>12</sup> By 1915 improvements had gone one step farther and the streets were oiled. Under a Resolution of Necessity by the Town Council, in 1947, the streets were blacktopped that fall.<sup>13</sup>

### *C. Fire Protection*

Ten years after the incorporation Winthrop took its first real step in fire protection. In August 1896, a fire company was organized with twenty members. A chemical fire engine which had to be pulled by men or by a team and wagon was purchased.<sup>14</sup>

A fire bell was purchased in 1897 and

"... placed in position at the north end of the Metcalf building (which is now Fawcett's Furniture Store) where it will be easy of access in case of fire. It weighs 450 pounds."<sup>15</sup>

A new fire truck was purchased in 1936, which was equipped with a supply tank that would furnish water for a period of about ten minutes while connections were being made to the water supply. The pump was a 350 gallon per minute type. The truck was to service rural residents within a radius of ten miles of town for a \$25 fee.<sup>16</sup>

In 1956, Byron township purchased a fire truck to service the township. Winthrop houses and mans this truck and has also purchased part of the equipment. For these services Winthrop has the privilege of using it in town. It is also available to territory surrounding Byron township for \$100, plus the amount paid the firemen.<sup>17</sup>

The Volunteer Fire Department and Firemen's Auxiliary, after raising money by sponsoring dances and lunches, purchased a Reviv-A-Life resuscitator in January 1957. The automatic breathing machine is available to anyone in the community without cost.<sup>18</sup>

### *D. The Calaboose*

A "calaboose" costing \$175 was built in 1894, and was located west of the I.C.R.R. depot.<sup>19</sup> It was a small building, approximately 10x10 ft., facing the west. It was made from 2x2 boards, and not very substantial. One evening, in either 1916 or '17, a man by the

12. Review, April 16, 1903.

13. The Winthrop News, June 24, 1915, and June 5, 1947.

14. Review, Aug. 27, 1896.

15. Ibid., May 27, 1897.

16. The Winthrop News, July 9, 1936.

17. Ibid., Jan. 19, 1956.

18. Ibid., Jan. 24, 1957.

19. Review, June 28, 1894.

name of "Harry" went on a drunk and became violent. After being refused admittance to the telephone office, he attempted to crawl through the window, and the manager hit him on the head with a stove shaker.

The constable was called and "Harry" was taken to Dr. H. A. Householder. While there the constable had to hand him another blow and lock him in the calaboose for the night. A long knife was taken from him, so he would not be able to free himself. But in the morning it was found that he had escaped; it is believed that he had outside help. The building had been so badly damaged that it could not be used again; and it became a place of refuge for vagrants.

Some months later the building was burned. It is believed that "Harry" had set it afire in retaliation or that some "bums" had burned it. "Harry" has never been seen or heard of since. An iron cage was then purchased and placed in the Pump House. Later this was no longer used, as the law required that someone stay with prisoners in case something would happen to the building. Offenders have since been taken to the county jail in Independence.<sup>20</sup>

### *E. Water Works*

"Shall the incorporated town of Winthrop, Iowa, erect, establish, and maintain Water Works for municipal and commercial use, and issue bonds, not exceeding the sum of \$4500 to pay for the same?" The preceding public measure was submitted to the citizens at a special election held in March 1898. A total of 286 votes were cast, 161 men and 125 women, with a majority voting in favor of the water works.<sup>21</sup>

A site for the water works plant was purchased for \$150. The lot was three rods by six rods, located on the north side of Hamilton street.<sup>22</sup>

The plant to furnish water for municipal purposes and protection had been completed by September. A description of the plant in the *Buchanan County Review* says:

"The six horse power engine, the well and tanks are enclosed in a building 36x40 ft. The tanks are 36 ft. in length and eight ft. in diameter, with a capacity of 30,000 gallons or 15,000 each, and guaranteed to a working pressure of 65 lbs. to the square inch. There are 5,700 feet of mains all told; 120 feet of 6 inch, and 5,580 feet of 4 inch pipes, and 15 hydrants. The well is 227

20. Story told by Dr. H. A. Housholder, Jan. 12, 1957.

21. Review, March 24, 1898.

22. Ibid., May 19, 1898.

feet deep and contains 110 feet of water. This is the first compressed air plant and only one of the kind in the state of Iowa."<sup>23</sup>

A new well was drilled in 1914, next to the lighting plant.<sup>24</sup>

A special election was held in March 1923 on the proposition of issuing bonds in the sum not to exceed \$6,000 for the purpose of making improvements to the municipal waterworks system. It carried with a majority, but a reelection had to be held in June as not a sufficient number had voted to make the election legal. In this election there were 129 for and 9 against.<sup>25</sup>

A new city water tower was completed and water turned into it in October 1923. On a try-out it was found that there was a 60 pound pressure at the hydrants. The tower proper was 83 feet high, on top of which was a huge tank measuring 18 feet high by 17 feet wide, with an eight and one-half drop of bottom. A two foot ball finished the top of which is a 100 candle power light. The capacity of the tank is 40,000 gallons.<sup>26</sup>

A new pump was installed at the water works in 1934. It pumped about 100 gallons per minute.<sup>27</sup> A filtering plant, costing \$4300, was installed at the town pump house in 1954. The purifying system removes iron and purifies the well water by passing it through a series of three huge tanks.<sup>28</sup>

#### *F. Lighting System*

The first mention of any street light was in 1882:

"A beautiful new street lamp adorns the street in front of the St. Charles Hotel. Its advent was hailed with delight."<sup>29</sup>

In June 1903, a subscription paper was circulated among the business men, and funds were raised to purchase a thousand candle-power gasoline street lamp. The same month the street light was hoisted high above the center of main street where

"... it cast a light strong enough for a person with ordinary eyesight to tell the time of night two blocks away by the hands of a watch."<sup>30</sup>

---

23. *Ibid.*, Sept. 8, 1898.

24. *The Winthrop News*, Feb. 3, 1914.

25. *Ibid.*, March 22, 1923, and June 21, 1923.

26. *Ibid.*, Oct. 18, 1923.

27. *Ibid.*, May 24, 1934.

28. *Ibid.*, Oct. 28, 1954.

29. *Journal*, May 26, 1882.

30. *Review*, June 18, 1903.

Five months later thirty new street lamps were on the thoroughfares of Winthrop. The rounds of the lamp lighter required the traveling of between three and four miles each day to light them.<sup>31</sup>

The citizens voted in 1912 in favor of installing an electric light plant. The vote was carried by a large majority, 181 for and 35 against. The light plant was erected on the O. J. Metcalf property, just north of the Boynton block. The plant was brick, 24x42 feet with an 11 foot ceiling.<sup>32</sup>

Forty street lights were erected, ten on the south side of the railroad track and 30 on the north. The plant was a 110 volt system, with the addition of a 200 ampere storage battery, which meant 24 hour service.<sup>33</sup>

The electric current was turned into the wires for the first time on April 14, 1913.<sup>34</sup>

An election was held in February 1914 on the issue of whether or not the town should issue bonds in the amount of \$5,000, to enlarge the lighting plant and waterworks. It passed by a large majority, and \$3,000 was used for the lighting plant and \$2,000 for the waterworks.<sup>35</sup>

After several months of investigation in 1917, it was found the light plant wasn't paying out, and a contract was entered into with the Iowa Electric Company to furnish current to Winthrop. The engines, dynamos, batteries, tanks, and all equipment were sold to them for \$4,500.<sup>36</sup>

In April 1919, the Iowa Electric Company filed a petition in the clerk's office of the district court asking for an accounting with the City of Winthrop for light current service. It claimed that the plaintiff and defendant entered into contract for reconstructing the city line from a direct to an alternating current system on which \$1,800 is due; that later they entered agreement to furnish light at five cents per kwh. for the first 1,000 kwh. per month; four and one-half cents for the next 500 and two and one-half cents for all over 5,000 kwh. with a minimum of \$75 per month; that from September 1917 they furnished \$619.70 worth; that from December 21 when the alternating current system began operations to January 1, 1919 the plaintiff's bill totalled \$1,481.

---

31. *Ibid.*, Oct. 29, 1903.

32. *The Winthrop News*, Nov. 21, 1912.

33. *Ibid.*, Dec. 5, 1912.

34. *Ibid.*, April 17, 1914.

35. *Ibid.*, Feb. 3, 1914.

36. *Ibid.*, March 29, 1917.



The city came with a counter charge of \$4,500 which the Electric Company agreed to pay for the taking over of old machinery. The bill also says they were to pay the city for cost of operating the plant from September 15, 1917, to December 25, 1917, when the company connected with alternating current, which amounts to over \$1,000, also rent of the building for a period of about 12 months.<sup>37</sup>

Finally December 1921 the lawsuit resulted in a victory for the city in the amount of a judgment against the Electric Company for \$3,345.49. In the suit it was brought out that the contract was illegal, as the council had not put the proposition up to the people to vote as to whether they should enter into contract with the company.<sup>38</sup>

In 1924 the Iowa Electric Company instituted another action against Winthrop to recover electric current furnished the town in 1917, 1918, and 1919 in the amount of \$3,562, but proposed to settle with Winthrop for the judgment Winthrop secured against them in 1921 in the amount of \$3,345.49, by acknowledging full satisfaction of its claim, and to prompt removal from the water works building the machinery and equipment purchased by them in 1917. The town council adopted the resolution in September, and the action pending for so many years had finally ended.

The large room of the Pump House, that housed the electrical equipment removed by the Iowa Electric Company, was converted to a hose house where the hose cart and chemical equipment were kept.<sup>39</sup>

In an election held in 1932 the town voted not to enter into another five year contract with the Iowa Electric Company. But in January of the next year a contract was entered into with the Company. They finally agreed to furnish the town with electric current at the rate of three and one-fourth cents per kilowatt.<sup>40</sup>

An "electric sign" was installed by R. J. Postel in front of his hardware store in 1925. It was the first sign of this kind in Winthrop.<sup>41</sup>

Installation of Mercury Vapor Luminaires was begun in 1954 to replace the old street lights.<sup>42</sup> At the present all of the principal streets have been completed.

---

37. The Winthrop News, April 24, 1919.

38. Ibid., Dec. 15, 1921.

39. Ibid., Sept. 11, 1924, and Oct. 9, 1924.

40. Ibid., Nov. 17, 1932, and Jan. 19, 1933.

41. Ibid., Jan. 22, 1925.

42. Ibid., Dec. 30, 1954.

*G. Parks*

In June 1929, the city council purchased five lots on 1st Street, for \$25 plus the taxes of \$2.03, which comprise what is known as the City Park.<sup>43</sup>

In 1934 the park on the south side of Main Street was acquired.<sup>44</sup> The business buildings that had once lined this street were by now all torn down, with the exception of the Post Office on the west end, and another building on the extreme east end. This now joined the square north of the depot which the I. C. railroad had beautified in 1907, planting trees and shrubs and putting a fence around it.<sup>45</sup> A bandstand was now built,<sup>46</sup> and in 1943 a service men's honor roll was erected under the sponsorship of the local American Legion post.<sup>47</sup> Six hundred dollars was raised by contribution in 1945 for a new brick honor roll.<sup>48</sup>

Dr. and Mrs. H. A. Housholder secured and presented the land containing the ball park to the Commercial Club of Winthrop, in 1946.<sup>49</sup> In gratitude the club voted to name the park "Housholder Memorial Park" in memory of the Housholder's oldest son who drowned in 1941.

A formal dedication of the park took place on June 2, 1954, after a score board, with the name "Housholder Memorial Park" had been installed and bleachers seating 500 had been erected.<sup>50</sup>

A new library and maintenance building was built in May 1955. The building is 60x32 feet in size and the front on Main Street was built around the brick servicemen's honor roll. The building of concrete blocks houses the public library on the north end adjacent to Main Street and the garage and maintenance occupies the south portion.<sup>51</sup>

Other civic improvements included lighted signs erected in 1941, as you enter the town from the east or west on Highway No. 20. The Commercial Club conducted a slogan contest for the signs. Winning first place was Al Rich with the slogan "The friendliest town for miles around." After a period of blackout during the war years the signs were lighted again in 1946.<sup>52</sup>

43. Town Records, Minute book, No. 3, p. 61.

44. Town Records, Minute book, No. 3, p. 204.

45. The Winthrop News. June 20, 1907.

46. Ibid., May 17, 1934.

47. Ibid., March 4, 1943.

48. Ibid., Aug. 16, 1945.

49. Ibid., Aug. 8, 1946.

50. Ibid., June 3, 1954.

51. Ibid., April 7, 1955.

52. Ibid., March 27, 1941, and April 18, 1946.

In 1924 a belfry was erected over the roof of the pump house to house a fire siren, which was operated from the telephone office.<sup>53</sup> In 1927, the Literary Club presented the Council with a written request that the whistle also be blown four times a day, at 7 a.m., noon, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. The request was granted.<sup>54</sup> In 1950 a Federal automatic time clock was installed to control the operation of the siren, except in case of fire, which is still operated from the telephone office.<sup>55</sup>

Blinker lights were installed in 1955 at each approach to town on Highway No. 20 as a warning to speeding traffic.<sup>56</sup>

#### *H. Budget*

In a written report in 1938 Winthrop was reported to be "out of the red" for the first time in this century:

"For the first time in the twentieth century, can the citizens of our town claim from a standpoint of solvency, as being in the preferred list by having liabilities of nil . . . in 1899 bonds were voted and issued for the first well and water distribution system. In 1910 came another bond issue for an electric system and in 1921 came the third issue of bonds for a new water tower. Hence, during the past forty years, Winthrop citizens have been paying for these much needed improvements. On Feb. 5, 1938, the last bond outstanding against the town was paid."<sup>57</sup>

In 1951 when the council adopted the budget estimate, there being no objectors, the fact was overlooked that previously there was a limit of nine mills on a corporation tax. But the

" . . . lid had been taken off and the council given permission to increase to 30 mills. Since the policy of the council has been to ask for as much as possible when preparing the budget, this was done. This made an increase for 1952 to \$15,000, in comparison to \$4,930 in 1951."<sup>58</sup>

The council admitted that it was in error for not investigating the matter more thoroughly, but the citizens were also at fault for not showing more interest in town proceedings when the budget estimate was published.

#### *I. They Called This Law*

Ordinances have been passed throughout the history of the town that call to mind peculiar habits of the times:

53. Ibid., Oct. 9, 1924.

54. Town records, Minute book, No. 3, p. 32.

55. The Winthrop News, Feb. 9, 1950.

56. Ibid., Nov. 3, 1955.

57. Ibid., Feb. 10, 1938.

58. Ibid., Feb. 14, 1952.

1897—"The riding of bicycles on the sidewalks of the town is contrary to the pride and dignity of the town and is hereby prohibited. The violation of the foregoing shall be deemed a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine not to exceed ten dollars or confinement in the county jail not to exceed fifteen days, or by both fine and imprisonment."<sup>59</sup>

1898—"The use of Madison street for the purpose of training or driving, unbroken, vicious or dangerous horses or mules, shall be deemed a misdemeanor.

The use of Madison and First, Second and Third Streets between Madison and Monroe streets of the town, for the purpose of playing ball, quoits, or other games, shall be deemed a misdemeanor."<sup>60</sup>

1901—"No fowl shall hereafter be allowed to run at large between April 1st and October 1st of each year within the limits of said Town of Winthrop."<sup>61</sup>

1903—"The maximum rate of speed of six miles an hour was set for all railway trains passing through town."<sup>62</sup>

1910—"An order prohibited parties from coasting with coaster wagons on the sidewalks inside the city limits. Baseball and football were prohibited on the principal streets. Parties who have ashes will hereafter do well to have an ash pile in their own yard, as there is an ordinance against throwing them into the streets."<sup>63</sup>

"It is unlawful to tie horses or other animals to any telephone pole, within the city limits."<sup>64</sup>

1912—"The speed of autos in the city limits was to be no greater than one mile in four minutes."<sup>65</sup>

1917—"The law went into effect whereby one must register their dog. The fee was 50 cents in addition to the regular dog tax and the dog must wear the dog tag."<sup>66</sup>

1927—"An ordinance was passed establishing residential zones, with a maximum speed limit of 25 miles an hour, and a business zone, with a speed limit of 15 miles an hour."<sup>67</sup>

---

59. Review, May 6, 1897.

60. Ibid., March 24, 1898.

61. Ibid., Oct. 10, 1901.

62. Ibid., April 30, 1903.

63. The Winthrop News, April 4, 1910.

64. Ibid., Sept. 15, 1910.

65. Ibid., May 23, 1912.

66. Ibid., June 28, 1917.

67. Ibid., Aug. 18, 1927.



1931—"An ordinance was passed regulating the sale of fire-crackers."<sup>68</sup>

1935—"The first parking rules were passed and markings made where cars could lawfully park."<sup>69</sup>

Many improvements within the town have been made during the last few years. Among these are black-topping of streets, new mercury vapor street lights, time clock, blinker traffic signals, filter and purifier for water works, library and maintenance building, improvements at the City park, and a re-wiring program at the present time.

The business life of a small town "Main Street" will be described in Chapter IV.

---

68. Ibid., May 21, 1931.

69. Ibid., Oct. 10, 1935.

## "Main Street"

### *A. Merchants*

Population changes have been slight throughout the 100 years of the existence of Winthrop. The first official population figures of the town were 370 in 1890,<sup>1</sup> as compared to about 610 residents to-day. Business progressed rapidly due to the location of the village on the railroad.

The first list of businesses published showed the following here in 1865:

"Merchants—D. Chesley and John H. Palmer

Mr. Palmer also has a grain elevator and deals in agricultural implements, and has sold 30 reapers this season.

Grocer—T. Farrell

Blacksmiths—S. Cornick, G. Kirkpatrick

Shoemakers—I. D. Owens, J. Vanston

Hotel Keeper—Henry Cornick, who is also postmaster

Grain buyer, S. W. Rich

Physician—Dr. H. C. Markham."

The first elevator was built by J. H. Palmer in 1863, with a capacity of 10,000 bushels. He had previously built a store, with a dwelling attached. The elevator burned in 1865, and he constructed a new one with a capacity of 20,000 bushels, at a cost of \$6,000. Its dimensions were 24 by 72 feet, height 50 feet, and 80,000 feet of lumber was required for its construction. The grain receiver was placed underground to avoid the necessity of an elevated driveway.<sup>2</sup>

By 1868, the business of the town was represented as follows:

"Merchants—J. H. Palmer, Day & Bartholomew, Hildreth & Fellows, B. M. Culver.

Hardware—Mr. Farr

Harness Shop—Mr. Kinney

Shoemakers—I. D. Owens, Mr. Vincent

Grain Dealers—J. H. Palmer, S. W. Rich, Alex Risk

Lumber Merchants—J. H. Palmer, C. W. Seidell

Agricultural Implements—McGowen & Woodruff

---

1. Letter from William J. Petersen, superintendent of the State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa, January 15, 1957. Other population figures are: 1900-618; 1905-607; 1915-564; 1925-575; 1930-496; 1940-604.

2. Bulletin, August 22, 1865.

Wagon Makers—Oliver Powers, J. P. Ferguson

Blacksmiths—Kirkpatrick Brothers

Hotel—Henry Cornick

Postmaster—Hiram M. Potter

Station Agent—Frank Ward

Physicians—Dr. H. C. Markham, Dr. M. A. Chamberlain."

The population of Winthrop was now "fully three hundred and fifty, with new faces added nearly every week." The village had become the second grain depot in the county.<sup>3</sup>

Business places had increased by 1880, to the following:

"Groceries and Notions—George Hartwick

Grocery and Shoe Shop—I. D. Owens

Grocery and Stationer—George Woodworth

Dry Goods and Groceries—W. Hildreth, Palmetier & Pullis

Drug Stores—M. A. Chamberlain, Fox & Johnston

Meat Market—Frank Schuler

Millinery—Mrs. Anderson

Dressmakers—Carrie Goodell, Misses Robinson & Limbert

Hardware and Groceries—D. W. Hovey

Shoe Store—Ferguson & Jack

Shoemakers—George & A. Jack, D. T. Colegrove

Agricultural Implements—N. Barney, Alex Risk

Carpenter Shops—F. A. Collins, E. C. Huff

Wagon Shops—J. P. Ferguson, M. Fuchs

Blacksmith Shops—John & George Kirkpatrick, M. J. Ferguson

Grain Dealers—O. J. Metcalf, Alex Risk

The elevator operated by Mr. Risk is operated by a steam engine, and he also grinds feed.

Livery Stables—W. A. Patterson, G. E. Titus

Stock Dealers—Horace Chesley, George Spangler

Saloons—C. W. Aborn, Charles Dougherty, Thomas Turley

Hotel, the Winthrop House—W. A. Patterson

Two public halls—Hovey's and Barney's

Station Agent—W. T. Kendall

Postmaster—Willard Woodworth

Lawyers—E. S. Gaylord, Z. P. Rich

Physicians—Dr. M. A. Chamberlain, Dr. L. M. Johnston.<sup>4</sup>

In 1881, Mr. Schuler the butcher put a first class refrigerator in his meat shop.<sup>5</sup> The next year he was driving his horse "Trinket"

3. Bulletin, April 24, 1868.

4. Percival and Percival, op. cit. p. 371.

5. Bulletin, May 13, 1881.

around the country supplying the farmers with meat.<sup>6</sup> The following warning also appeared "Look out for your dogs, Schuler is making sausage."<sup>7</sup>

The Winthrop House was purchased by C. W. Scoville, in 1882, and during his ownership was known as the St. Charles Hotel.<sup>8</sup> In a few years it was purchased by J. Cooney, and again became the Winthrop House.<sup>9</sup>

The creamery was established by H. J. Griswold and was familiarly known as the Good Luck Creamery.<sup>10</sup> During the 1881 season the creamery made 32,254 pounds of butter, most of which was shipped to Pennsylvania.<sup>11</sup> By 1885, Winthrop was considered the best butter market in this part of the state west of Dubuque,<sup>12</sup> and it is still one of the foremost creameries in this section of the country.

See Table II and compare the above lists with that of one compiled at approximately the midway mark, and the one of today's business people.

### *B. Business Threat*

A disastrous fire on the morning of January 1, 1878, destroyed about \$8,000 worth of property on Main Street. An account of the fire in a county history shows how inflammable wooden buildings were:

"The fire was discovered in the rear of a building occupied by Mrs. Phonecia, as a dry goods store and dwelling. So fast was the progress of the fire that the occupants barely had time to escape. The fire spread to the east and to the west, and when it was finally stopped, the only buildings left standing in the block were those on the extreme corners. However, the town was quickly rebuilt. From this time on Winthrop has been an important town in this section of the country."<sup>13</sup>

It was believed that the fire had started from a lighted cigar thrown into a spittoon, igniting the sawdust. In these days all the stores kept spittoons.<sup>14</sup>

---

6. Journal, July 14, 1882.

7. Ibid., Dec. 22, 1882.

8. Ibid., March 3, 1882.

9. Ibid., Feb. 14, 1889.

10. Review, April 13, 1893.

11. Journal, Dec. 23, 1881.

12. Conservative, June 26, 1885.

13. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 232.

14. Early memory of Eugene Dunlap, interview Nov. 26, 1956.



In the summer of 1884, four business buildings were destroyed in another fire:

"On Thursday morning of last week about 1 o'clock a fire broke out in the two story frame building situated on the south side of Main Street owned by L. M. Clow and occupied by Tom Turley. According to the best accounts, Mr. Turley, himself, who used the second story as a sleeping apartment, discovered the fire as soon as anyone and on getting up he discovered the flames under full headway and fully one half of the building enveloped. He went to the front window and gave the alarm, and then went back to secure his money and valuables from the bureau. The smoke and fire was so dense he did not succeed, tossed trunk out of the window and followed. A one story frame millinery shop on the east, occupied by Mrs. N. E. Anderson was destroyed, but her goods were removed. Little of the contents were removed from a two story building occupied by Hovey and Clow with a stock of farm machinery. Wind carried flames across the cornices downward and the roofs were deluged constantly with water, until wind finally veered to the east. The building next to Clow's was lost, but was unoccupied. Origin is unknown, it is thought a lamp may have exploded in Mr. Turley's saloon. Ladies helped pump and carry water and lug articles from the flames. There is a need of a fire company."<sup>15</sup>

In 1890, the elevator operated by Henry Griswold caught fire from sparks thrown from the 4 a.m. train and was not discovered until 5 o'clock. By this time the fire was well under way and the elevator burned to the ground, as well as the I.C. depot.<sup>16</sup>

About a year after the first fire engine was purchased, fire broke out at 3:15 a.m. at the Winthrop Lumber Company and in an hour it had burned completely. The fire engine had to be moved four times, and five wells and cisterns were run dry. It was evident that the town was in need of a system of water works.<sup>17</sup>

### *C. Saloons and Prohibition*

In the late 1800s there were many temperance organizations; the Temperance League was formed on Dec. 30, 1870;<sup>18</sup> the Band of Hope organized in the 1880s;<sup>19</sup> in March 1882, the Temperance

---

15. Bulletin, July 25, 1884.

16. Journal, May 1, 1890.

17. Review, Aug. 5, 1897.

18. Bulletin, Jan. 6, 1871.

19. Ibid., Dec. 31, 1880.



#### SITE OF H. J. GRISWOLD'S ELEVATOR

After a fire in May 1890. Located north of the railroad on Third Street. Steeple of Baptist Church is in extreme left corner of picture. Building at right was A. C. Housholder store, now the site of Fawcett's Furniture Store. Little girl standing on wheel at left is Gracie Griswold, daughter of H. J. Griswold, standing to her left. Only other person identified, Perry Lake, drayman, at left with arms akimbo.





GRISWOLD AND JENKIN'S GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORE, 1892

Located on the corner where the Guthrie Produce now stands. The stairway on the left led to Dr. Shine's office. Back row, left to right—Fred Norman, depot agent; Fay Place, leader of Clipper Band; Harry Higman; Frank Vierth, editor; Henry J. Griswold; Dr. M. L. Shine; Karl Jorgensen, clerk; Bert Knowles; Bert Richmond, driver for Dr. Shine; D. W. Hovey; Dan and Ben Shine, twins. Front row, left to right—Irve Cassidy, Diggins, Diggins boy, unidentified, Carey Jack, unidentified. Lyman Jenkins, standing. H. J. Griswold was elected state representative in 1893, and served two terms from Buchanan County, followed by two terms as state senator from this district.



#### EAST END MAIN STREET

Street scene beginning at the corner of 1st and Madison streets, north side. Blacksmith shop, George Watson's wagon shop, livery barn and Winthrop House, J. Cooney, proprietor.





MAIN STREET, 1907

South side business row. Left to right—Winthrop State Bank on the corner (only top is visible on right side of picture), Thom & Ownby tonsorial parlors, cream buying station of Eugene Miller, Spangler & Wilson meat market, Kinney & Sons grocery and clothing store, E. F. Clow, harness shop, W. Hunter's cigar store, with billiard rooms on second floor. On the farther end of this business row, Dr. G. B. Thompson had his office.

The north side of the street included left to right—J. B. Ryan drug store, with the telephone office on the second floor; the H. C. Unbehaun hardware store, with the Odd Fellows Hall above; J. Palmeters store; Collin's drug store; Harry Bloom barber shop; Peoples State Bank; D. C. McFarland store and the W. B. Miller store.

The boys on the telephone pole are Lee Griswold and Harold Bucher.



NORTH SIDE OF BUSINESS ROW, 1907

View from east to west.



3RD STREET LOOKING SOUTH, 1909 (Top)

3RD STREET LOOKING NORTH, 1909 (Bottom)





The burning of the Winthrop Opera House, on January 9, 1907.



In February of 1874, R. R. Plane of Independence started a hardware store in the old Palmer store. The building was one of the first on Main Street, built by John Palmer. It was destroyed in the fire of 1878.





Ernest "Ike" Ownby shaving Dr. Dan Shine. Year 1909.



Dr. and Mrs. H. A. Housholder and son Maurice. Taken in 1909 in their first car, a Reo.

Reform Club organized, and 300 citizens signed the pledge;<sup>20</sup> the Good Templar's Lodge was organized in February 1886;<sup>21</sup> and on January 20, 1892 the W.C.T.U. organized.<sup>22</sup>

The *Bulletin* in April 1875 said there were many law suits against saloon keepers, and there was "much rowdyism and ruffianism in Winthrop the past year." At this time nothing stronger than wine and beer was to be sold in the saloons.<sup>23</sup>

By 1882, Iowa was by law a prohibition state, but things were different in Winthrop:

"Some of the boys got on a 'high lonesome' Wednesday nite, scattered 'Shorty's' beer kegs and barrels in the street, and broke one window by throwing a beer keg through it."<sup>24</sup>

An 1886 item said that the prohibition law was not enforced and that there were still saloons:

"Notwithstanding the victory in favor of prohibition, the saloons continue to furnish excitement."<sup>25</sup>

One Winthrop citizen wrote:

"Whose business is it to enforce the ordinances passed. We understand both saloons were open on Sunday, January 29 in this place."<sup>26</sup>

A law allowed saloons in communities, if a majority of the voters voted in favor of a license. By 1894, Winthrop was "strong enough in its moral sentiment to remain non-saloon."<sup>27</sup>

#### D. Medicine

Many of the common ailments before 1900 included consumption, typhoid fever, dropsy, apoplexy, whooping cough, spotted fever,<sup>28</sup> smallpox, diptheria, grippe, and "Jobs comforters."<sup>29</sup>

Operations were performed as early as 1870 in town:

"An operation was performed by Dr. H. C. Markham, assisted by Dr. Reynolds of Masonville on a boy about ten years old . . . who has been sick nearly one year; first taken with rheumatic fever and then culminating in scrofula, settling in the legs with

20. Journal, March 31, 1882.

21. Bulletin, Feb. 11, 1886.

22. Winthrop Times, Jan. 20, 1892.

23. Bulletin, April 2, 1875.

24. Journal, March 3, 1882.

25. Conservative, Oct. 24, 1886.

26. Journal, Feb. 2, 1888.

27. Review, Oct. 11, 1894.

28. Bulletin, May 17, 1872,

29. Review, Jan. 26, 1893.

an abscess in the left hip. Removal of the bone was proved successful."<sup>30</sup>

An operation in 1885 performed by Drs. White and Shine upon the feet of Mr. Henry Lake was a "successful one and already he is able to bear his weight upon his feet."<sup>31</sup>

Another operation performed that year was a

"... difficult but successful surgical operation performed . . . by Drs. Wilson of Independence and White of this place, who removed a cystic tumor from Mrs. Gallington. Getting along fine."<sup>32</sup>

Most of the operations were performed in the homes:

"A surgical operation was performed by Drs. Shine, Thompson, and Bradley on Louie Knowles. The operation was called the excision of the parts of two ribs for the purpose of securing a better drainage for the empyema, or in plain English the letting out of the purulent matter collected in the cavity of the pleura. We are glad to note the operation was attended with the greatest success and reflects great credit upon the profession. The patient exhibited great nerve and withstood the operation with fortitude."<sup>33</sup>

The enforcing of prohibition affected the doctors in the following way:

"As a practicing physician in the active pursuit of his profession I have found it expedient and even necessary at many times in the treatment of patients, over whose destinies I have been called to preside, to administer alcoholic stimulants. Conditions have existed that rendered it necessary that said stimulants be kept in stock with other medicines and paraphernalia, of practice. I am shocked and grieved to learn that I have deeply offended the prejudices of many of my temperance friends.

I am accused of too liberal a dispensation of 'Red Liker! This grieves me. Perhaps I am misunderstood or misrepresented. Perhaps I have been imposed upon. Perhaps symptoms have been exaggerated. Perhaps I have not been sufficiently critical in examinations to detect the impostun. Perhaps old 'possums' have maliciously complained of chills, grippe, cold feet, and other symptoms of vital depression in order that their quinine be more palatably floated.

---

30. Bulletin, May 27, 1870.

31. Conservative, Sept. 3, 1885.

32. Ibid., Dec. 17, 1885.

33. Review, Nov. 30, 1893.



But society must be protected at what ever cost. Rather a green mound be raised over the remains of some poor sufferer than that some able bodied man should be given whiskey. Therefore the jug has been corked, hermetically sealed and its face turned to the wall. My patients must hereafter take their quinine in cold coffee. Cold chills in the back must yield to beef tea and friction. To cold feet we apply the warming pan. If any sufferer of the future time find himself in extremis and to maintain the vital spark it is determined that a little alcohol is the sure quanon, let him dispatch an ox team to Independence or some other wicked city where the contraband goods are publicly offered.

Now, Mr. Editor, please inform your readers and the public through the medium of your valuable paper, that hereafter they must take their quinine 'straight' no 'possum' need apply. The seal will positively not be broken. For any past offense either real or imaginary, I pray for pardon in humility and contrition. And should I again be the unconscious means of giving offense, may I be banished to Honolulu or Quasqueton.

Yours in sack cloth and German socks,

Dr. Thompson."<sup>34</sup>

### *E. Opera House Burns*

An Opera House was completed in September 1902 by N. J. Denie and A. T. Robinson for the cost of \$8,500. The 50x90 feet building, owned by a stock company of local citizens, was two stories high with a basement. The first floor was the theatre and the second floor the home of various lodges. In the basement there was a large dining room, kitchen, and heating and gas lighting plant. The building was used for all of the social gatherings of the community.<sup>35</sup>

On January 9, 1907, the Winthrop Opera House burned to the ground. A fire had been started in the furnace of the building to warm it for a dinner and installation of officers of the G.A.R. From this fire the hot air shaft became overheated and fired the surrounding timbers. The building was filled with smoke and no one could locate the blaze as it was inside the joists and water could not reach it. The first hydrant which the firemen coupled on to was frozen. At 11:40 a.m. the chimney fell and a few minutes later the steel girders which supported the second floor came down. All of the lodges lost their paraphernalia, only a piano, chairs, scenery, and skates were

34. Review, Dec. 7, 1893.

35. The Winthrop News, Aug. 28, 1902, and Dec. 1, 1904.



saved. The building was insured for \$4,800, making the loss to the shareholders about \$2,700.<sup>36</sup>

A new Fraternal Hall was built that year on the same site.<sup>37</sup> It was later sold to private individuals, eventually becoming the Winthrop Theatre and in 1949 was sold to St. Patrick's Church.<sup>38</sup>

### *F. Passing Fancies*

Various factories and enterprises have had their run in the history of the village. In 1881, there was a barbed wire fence manufactory, the process being to take smooth wire and barb it by machinery.<sup>39</sup> There was also a broom factory the following year.<sup>40</sup> In 1884 there was a spring bed factory (double coil steel springs),<sup>41</sup> an ice cream factory in 1906,<sup>42</sup> and a cement block factory in 1910.<sup>43</sup> Cheese factories<sup>44</sup> and a sorghum works in the vicinity of Winthrop were important in the 1870s and '80s.<sup>45</sup>

### *G. Banking Institutions*

The Farmers and Traders Bank built in 1885 a small brick building, 16x24 feet in size.<sup>46</sup> It was organized as a private bank in 1884, by L. S. Clark, Geo. Spangler, W. B. Halleck, J. Palmetier, Walter Thompson, and Samuel Braden, with a capital stock of \$5,000. J. Palmetier was the first president, Geo. Spangler, vice president, and L. S. Clark, the cashier. In March 1892 the bank was reorganized as a state bank, under the name of Winthrop State Bank, with the same officers, excepting the position of cashier, who was E. Brintnall.<sup>47</sup>

In July 1893 over 200 National banks had closed their doors since the first of that year. However, the financial statement of the Winthrop State Bank showed it to be one of the few solid institutions of the country.<sup>48</sup> But in August a false report started a run on the bank. After learning that the total assets of the bank were \$80,000, and liabilities only \$34,000, confidence returned.<sup>49</sup>

36. The Winthrop News, Jan. 9, 1907.

37. Ibid., Sept. 19, 1907.

38. Ibid., Aug. 25, 1949.

39. Percival and Percival, op. cit., p. 371.

40. Journal, Nov. 10, 1882.

41. Bulletin, May 30, 1884.

42. The Winthrop News, July 5, 1906.

43. Ibid., Aug. 18, 1910.

44. Bulletin, March 16, 1873.

45. Journal, Dec. 23, 1881.

46. Conservative, Oct. 1, 1885.

47. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 233.

48. Review, July 27, 1893.

49. Ibid., Aug. 24, 1893.

In September the bank declared an eight per cent dividend, which was an unusual occurrence among banks during these hard times.<sup>50</sup>

In 1891, a Hall's burglar proof safe operating with a time lock was installed.<sup>51</sup> Another safe weighing 8,000 pounds was purchased in 1894, necessitated by an attempted break in.<sup>52</sup>

A year later when

" . . . cleaning out the well near the O. J. Metcalf store, the knob belonging to the dial on the bank vault was found. The knob was still on the 'jimmy-crack' used by the robbers to pry open the door, in their attempt to rob the bank."<sup>53</sup>

A new building was constructed in 1900 at a cost of \$2,000, being a one-story brick<sup>54</sup> located where the Post Office is now situated.

As a result of heavy withdrawals of cash from the Winthrop State Bank the directors closed the door Wednesday, October 17, 1928. The bank officials said the bank was solvent and whether the doors re-opened or not every depositor would get his money dollar for dollar.<sup>55</sup> Depositors received their final dividend of 24.704 per cent on December 1930, making a total of 64.704 per cent returns.<sup>56</sup>

A second bank, the Peoples State Bank, was organized on August 1, 1901. It opened five days later for business with a capital stock of \$25,000. The first officers were: Thomas Thompson, president; James McKay, vice president; and L. N. Norman, cashier.<sup>57</sup> This bank was located at the same place as our bank today.

In 1907, the bank purchased an adding machine to replace the long hours the cashier spent over figures:

"The Peoples State Bank have been using an adding machine for a short time that is a wonder. The price of the affair is only \$350, and how it can be built for that money seems impossible. It does everything but talk, and a column of figures a rod long never gives it a headache. It is absolutely accurate and reliable, swift and durable and looks like a necessity in the bank from its very great usefulness in handling the immense amount of figures used in the bank's business."<sup>58</sup>

50. Ibid., Sept. 7, 1893.

51. Ibid., July 28, 1891.

52. Ibid., May 17, 1894.

53. Ibid., May 8, 1895.

54. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 233.

55. The Winthrop News, Oct. 18, 1928.

56. Ibid., Dec. 11, 1930.

57. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 232.

58. The Winthrop News, Sept. 19, 1907.

Also at this time the typewriter was considered a wonder:

"The Peoples State Bank have installed a new typewriter . . . The centipede of this office is pounding the keys on one of them, with several more nursing the bug over the city. To a man who has a 'fist' which is unreadable when cold, a typewriter should be forced upon him by his friends as a measure of economy in time . . . It will spell and punctuate horribly but you can read it just the same . . . The machines are not a luxury, but a necessity in every business house."<sup>59</sup>

The Peoples State Bank closed in the latter part of 1931,<sup>60</sup> but paid their depositors 100 per cent dividends by the middle of 1935.<sup>61</sup>

The Farmers State Savings Bank, a branch of the Independence office, opened here in September 1934. J. S. Luther was the first and only manager of the bank, making a total of 21 years service.<sup>62</sup> The bank was closed in 1955, and the new Peoples Bank opened in the same location for business Monday, October 3, 1955. The bank was formed with A. J. Murphy, president; Ed Franck, vice president; H. D. Wilcox, cashier; I. L. Hand, Lee A. Griswold, Lowell E. Walters, and M. F. Cooney Jr., directors.<sup>63</sup>

#### *H. Before 1900 —*

Village life centered around the general merchandise store, where you could buy a 10 lb. pail of fish for 50c, a double roll of wall paper for 5c, a yard of outing flannel for 10c, and a hair switch from \$1 to \$20. Everyone bought soda crackers in bulk and had a cracker jar. Coffee was around 17c a lb. and ground in a coffee mill. In summer, eggs were 11c a dozen, but higher in winter, and were preserved in "water glass". If you didn't churn your own butter, it was 14c a lb.; a dollar bought 20 lbs. of raisins or 18 lbs. of sugar. Potatoes were 75c a bushel, oranges 12c a dozen, and bread was five loaves for a quarter, provided you weren't forbidden to buy, since some people considered it "sinful" to use bakery bread.<sup>64</sup>

The grocer, clothier, or "you name it we got it" man also advertised: three lead pencils for 1c, tablet, 1c; a very good hand saw for 24c; a good size rolling pin 4c; boy's suspenders, 5c; a tea kettle, 45c; scotch ginghams, 15c per yard; ladies black hose, 10c; ladies

59. *Ibid.*, Feb. 18, 1909.

60. Town Records, Vol. 3, p. 157.

61. The Winthrop News, Feb. 14, 1935.

62. Interview with J. S. Luther, Jan. 13, 1957.

63. The Winthrop News, Sept. 1, 1955.

64. Bulletin, Aug. 18, 1882, June 19, 1874, and Feb. 10, 1887, Winthrop Times, March 2, 1892, Review, March 29, 1894, and July 26, 1894.



jersey vests, 25c; silk umbrellas, \$1.25; youth's overcoat, \$1.75; barrel of apples, \$1.50; ice cream, 15c a pint; handkerchiefs, 3c. Pantaloon were advertised as being a necessary article, and were to be had in all sizes and shapes. Spectacles could be bought for all prices from 25c to \$5.<sup>65</sup>

An ad for Christmas presents included toys of every description, an elegant line of dolls, and all the late iron and wooden toys. Jewelry included: ladies and gents gold watch chains and charms, finger rings all sizes, breast pins, shirt studs, and ear drops. On the more practical side there were pocket knives, bread and butter knives, rifles, revolvers, agate coffee and tea pots, fancy water pails, soap stone foot warmers, hair curlers, and lanterns.<sup>66</sup> During cold weather lady clerks stood on hot soap stones in the stores, and "did up their pink toes in iodine and red flannel over night."<sup>67</sup>

During this time one of the stores ran this ad:

"Directions to Prevent Taking Cold"

First: Buy a good PLUSH CAP, that the head may be kept warm.

Second: Buy two good suits of UNDERWEAR.

Third: Buy a new suit of CLOTHES through out, including OVERCOAT for men and boys, and JACKETS and CLOAKS for women and children. See that the old clothes are properly worked into carpet rags.

Fourth: See that the feet are kept dry and warm, by wearing FELT BOOTS and RUBBERS for men and boys, and good SHOES and ARCTICS for women and children.

Fifth: See that the stomach is kept full. FLOUR, SUGAR and GROCERIES are cheap so there will be no trouble in that direction. And to keep the appetite good, buy one or two barrels of choice NEW YORK APPLES for winter use.

Sixth: Be very careful not to go out into the cold without a FUR COAT.

Follow these directions closely and buy the above goods CHEAP for CASH at the store of J. PALMETIER"<sup>68</sup>

Everyone was buying lumber for barns, corn prices ranged from 20c to 40c a bushel, and oats 10c to 18c a bushel. Coal was beginning to replace the woodpile, and hard coal sold for \$8.50 a ton. You could get a haircut for 10c, and the barber had a shaving mug for

65. Weekly Review, Jan. 19, 1893, Review, March 29, 1894.

66. Review, Dec. 7, 1893.

67. Ibid., Feb. 14, 1895.

68. Winthrop Times, Nov. 9, 1892.



every man. If he got sick the whole town went unshaven. Buckingham's Dye was recommended as a reliable dye for the whiskers.<sup>69</sup>

You could buy a hot lunch of roast meat and gravey, potatoes, bread and butter, coffee, tea or milk and a piece of pie for 15c. Free lunch was served at noon at farm sales.<sup>70</sup>

Some popular makes of farm machinery were the Diamond plow, Hawkings steel tooth rakes, Cooper wagon, Buckeye mower, David Bradley's square corner sulkey plow, Moline wood beam lever harrow, Rockford plow, and New Prize cultivator.<sup>71</sup>

The housewife was using the Acorn stove and Singer and Howe sewing machines. The "gramophone" made its first appearance, ladies wore bustles and used calling cards.<sup>72</sup>

When people had colds they soaked their feet in hot water and got well; when they had a sore throat, they wrapped a piece of salt pork in an old sock, tied it around the neck at night and went to work the next morning; for "belly-aches" they took castor oil and recovered. Popular medicines were Rocky Mountain Tea, DeWitt's Little Early Risers, Chamberlain's Pain Balm, Ayer's Sarsaparilla, and Bucklin's Arnica Salve.<sup>73</sup>

This was when everyone in town had a barn and a "back house" behind his home. Medicine men or "quack" doctors were frequent callers in town as well as the tramps who usually arrived about meal time. As many as 150 teams were counted at one time on Main street.<sup>74</sup>

The foregoing illustrates the type of business found in a small rural midwest community before the turn of this century. Chapter V will portray the part religion plays in a small town.

---

69. Winthrop Times, Feb. 17, 1892, Review, Dec. 7, 1893, and April 3, 1897.

70. Loc. cit.

71. Bulletin, June 19, 1874.

72. Ibid., Feb. 14, 1873.

73. Winthrop Times, Feb. 17, 1892.

74. Review, Sept. 22, 1898.

## Religious Denominations

### *A. The Baptists*

Five religious groups have organized and built churches during the history of Winthrop. Of these five groups only three remain.

The Baptist Church, one of the first, had meetings as early as 1860. The first Baptist meeting was held by the Rev. John Fullerton, of Independence, in June 1860, when he preached from the steps of the depot. He also held services in private residences, standing in the doors of the homes and addressing himself to those on the outside as well as the inside. In 1867, a society was formed for the purpose of building "a house of worship", and in the summer of 1868 it was built and "dedicated to the worship of God" on December 20. The cost of the "house" at that time was \$4,980. On January 26, 1869, the Baptists who were members at Quasqueton "came with letters" and formed the Winthrop Baptist church. The Rev. John Fullerton was their first preacher, and the membership in 1881 was thirty three.<sup>1</sup>

Among some of the social events commonly held by the church were sociables, dinners, and festivals:

"The Winthrop Cornet Band assisted the Baptist ladies in giving a strawberry festival at H. C. Unbehauns' new barn, June 19".<sup>2</sup>

"Rev. C. Perkins of the Baptist church was presented a purse of \$163.50, in recognition of his seven years service in and around Winthrop . . . the ladies presented three elegant bed spreads. This was followed by a general good time, music and short speeches. No community knows how to do these things in better style than our friends at Winthrop."<sup>3</sup>

"The Baptists held a festival at the Winthrop Hall, for the purpose of raising funds to repair the Baptist house of worship. Money raised first night, \$15; second night, \$25; third night, \$31. Total \$71, expenses \$20, left \$51."<sup>4</sup>

A tree and Santa Claus were part of the Christmas program back in 1891:

---

1. Percival and Percival, op. cit., pp. 371-372.

2. Journal, June 20, 1884.

3. Bulletin, March 8, 1871.

4. Ibid., Oct. 31, 1873.

"The Christmas time was observed here about the same as it is every year, but there is something about this occasion that none of us ever tire of. This year union services were held at the Baptist church. There was one large tree that was heavily laden with beautiful Christmas fruit that makes so many happy. The exercises of the evening were excellent, and very appropriate for the occasion. After the entertainment the presents were distributed, and judging from the happy countenances that left the church, there were very few that dear old Santa Claus had overlooked."<sup>5</sup>

Because of a lack of support and a dwindling membership, the following ad appeared in the paper in 1899:

"The undersigned committee offer for sale, the following described property, known as the Baptist church building, including the three lots, 6, 7, and 8, situated in block three in the village of Winthrop . . . to the highest sealed bidder. Palmer Ramsey and L. S. Perkins"<sup>6</sup>

N. J. Dennie purchased the church and lots, and erected a residence and barn.<sup>7</sup> The home is now the property of Mrs. Anna Griswold.

### *B. The Ridge*

There is a question of the place and date of the organization of the Congregational church:

"The Congregational Society was organized May 22, 1865. . . . The place of organization was the old Brown schoolhouse and services were held there for quite a long time. . . . Other authorities give the date of organization as March 11, 1865, and the first place of meeting as the Brooks schoolhouse, five miles northwest of Winthrop. . . . The first supply was A. Manson and the first pastor Rev. Wm. Spell."<sup>8</sup>

Mrs. Susan (McBane) Moore, born February 19, 1845, was the first white girl in Buchanan County. She played a melodeon at church services "in those early days when many persons thought a musical instrument an instrument of the devil".<sup>9</sup> She played at the schoolhouse in 1865, at the first church service at which instrumental music

5. Winthrop Times, Dec. 30, 1891.

6. Review, April 13, 1899.

7. Ibid., Sept. 21, 1899.

8. Chappell and Chappel, op. cit., pp. 233-234. For a list of the Congregational pastors see Table III.

9. From scrapbook of Carrie McKay, taken from the Waterloo Courier, 1930. The Winthrop News, Dec. 6, 1934.

was used. She was organist at the Congregational church in town for over 20 years.<sup>10</sup>

The charter members of the church were: G. S. Dawes, Adelia Dawes, Prosper Brintnall, Amy Brintnall, E. P. Brintnall, Wealthy Brintnall, Sarah Hamilton, Ann L. Meffert, Polly Pierce, James L. Cross, Mary A. Cross, I. H. Morgan, Clarissa Morgan, Robert Morris, Rebecca Morris, A. E. Stewart, Elizina Stewart, Pridgeon Hardy, Eliza Hardy, Frank Dawes, and Cynthia Dawes. The first clerk was I. H. Morgan; the first Deacon was G. S. Dawes; and the first treasurer was E. P. Brintnall.<sup>11</sup>

1208954

In 1868, the Congregationalists had "secured a beautiful location on the crowning point of the prairie," referred to as the Ridge, for the erection of a church.<sup>12</sup> It was built in 1869 at the cost of \$3,000.<sup>13</sup> The chancel was then on the west end of the building.<sup>14</sup> On February 13, 1870, the new church was dedicated. Rev. L. M. Brintnall was pastor at this time.<sup>15</sup>

A new bell was received in 1885, weighing 936 pounds, and costing \$200. In 1887, "two handsome chandeliers were received from Chicago."<sup>16</sup>

The year book record showed 193 as the membership in 1894, with about 80 families as representative of the church, and 119 registered on the books of the Sunday School. Connected with the church at this time was Castleville, eight miles northwest of town, where the pastor held regular services. The membership there was about forty.<sup>17</sup> The present parsonage was built in 1895, and Rev. C. B. Carlisle was the first resident.<sup>18</sup>

The weekly newspaper carried the following item on the noise at a church service:

"The boys that made the disturbance last Sunday eve at the Congregational church are old enough to know better, and if repeated again their names will be published."<sup>19</sup>

10. Loc. cit.

11. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 234.

12. Bulletin, April 24, 1868.

13. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 234.

14. Interview with Mrs. Arley Merrill, Jan. 19, 1957.,

15. Bulletin, Feb. 8, 1870.

16. Conservative, Oct. 15, 1885, and Dec. 8, 1887.

17. Review, Oct. 11, 1894.

18. Ibid., April 25, 1895.

19. Journal, Aug. 18, 1882.



The ladies of the church held festivals with ice cream, lemonade, raspberries, and cake "served in abundance."<sup>20</sup> A popcorn sociable was held with the admission being 10c, and "all the popcorn you can eat without further charge."<sup>21</sup> Mush and milk for 10c, and coffee and doughnuts for 10c, were served at a Poverty Sociable. All who attended had to appear in everyday clothes or be fined 10c, and any person wearing jewelry was fined 5c.<sup>22</sup>

The following is an account of an unusual Christmas program in 1894:

"The Christmas eve affair at the Congo church was a grand success. With the old-time fireplace, its andirons, swinging crane and kettle, its firelight, and high mantle with old-fashioned candle sticks, the 125 year old clock, a last century spinning wheel, chairs that were made many generations ago, the platform presented a unique as well as an ancient appearance. 'Santa Claus' and 'Fairy Good Cheer' distributed 200 bricks, filled with good things, by dismantling the fireplace. The music was furnished by the Vivo Trio, and the choir was exceptionally good . . . "<sup>23</sup>

The ladies of the church held an Aid Society Fair in 1895:

"A display of scores of articles, of real and artistic value, sold at good prices. At noon, the guests crowded the tables, on which a royal and bountiful New England dinner was served . . . . At lamplight there was a supper equally good . . . . A good old fashioned social time followed . . . . a very handsome Album quilt was presented to Pastor Carlisle and wife. The quilt was made of large blocks, and covered with names of parishioners, written with indelible ink, making an unique and valuable keepsake."<sup>24</sup>

A 30c "Pignic" dinner was served by the ladies in 1932. They purchased a pig, rendered the lard, made sausage, cut up roasts, and sold it at their dinner.<sup>25</sup>

On November 2, 1913, a service of tribute to the church was held, and it was then vacated. In 1913 and 1914 the church was extensively remodeled and enlarged under the direction of the pastor, Clyde S. Holland, who was assisted by members of the congregation.

---

20. Bulletin, July 9, 1875.

21. Winthrop Times, Feb. 17, 1892.

22. Review, Nov. 8, 1894.

23. Ibid., Dec. 27, 1894.

24. Ibid., Oct. 3, 1895.

25. The Winthrop News, Jan. 28, 1932.

The interior work was done by Chas. Copeland, and the position of the chancel was moved to the north. The windows installed were made of art glass, and are memorials to: H. W. Thompson, Ralph H. Meffert, P. Hardy, E. P. Brintnall, Samuel and Mary Braden, Robert H. White, Alvord and Addie Downing, J. J. McBride, Titus, and Fox. On May 3, 1914, a dedication of the remodeled church was held with appropriate ceremonies.<sup>26</sup>

Since 1929, the Kiene Community Congregational church, ten miles south of Winthrop, and the Winthrop church have hired a minister jointly. The minister and his family live in the Winthrop parsonage, and the Winthrop church pays the larger part of his salary.<sup>27</sup>

The Ladies Society of the Congregational Church evidently had its beginning around 1875, as mention of the group having a festival was made that year. It was later known as the Ladies Aid, and is now called the Women's Association. In 1953, under the efforts of the group an addition to the church was built for a modern kitchen.<sup>28</sup>

The Congregational church had the first organ in town. Before the installation of the organ, which probably dated back to the late 1870s a tuning fork was used by Oliver Powers to start the hymns.<sup>29</sup>

The first organ was a two manual pump organ with foot pedals. The small boys of the congregation took turns pumping the organ by a handle, which resembled the handle of a corn knife.<sup>30</sup> Between 1884 and 1894 a small organ was purchased by the young couples of the church for the vestry.<sup>31</sup> A piano was bought in 1908, and in 1949 a Hammond electric organ was purchased and installed by the young adults, known as the Lamplighters.<sup>32</sup>

In 1885 a Young People's Christian Endeavor was organized and was the first in the county. There were both junior and senior groups.<sup>33</sup> In recent years the group has been known as the Pilgrim Fellowship.

---

26. The Winthrop News, May 7, 1914.

27. Conservative, Section O, Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955.

28. Interview with Mrs. Carrie McKay, Jan. 19, 1957.

29. From scrapbook of Mrs. Arley Merrill, taken from Waterloo Courier, March 1931.

30. Interview with Mrs. Arley Merrill, Jan. 19, 1957.

31. Review, June 7, 1894.

32. Interview with Mrs. Arley Merrill, Jan. 19, 1957.

33. Conservative, Oct. 15, 1885.

The present church membership is 146 and the Sunday School enrollment is 63.<sup>34</sup>

### *C. On Zion's Hill*

The Methodist Episcopal church of Winthrop had its beginning back in the days of the circuit-riders, Methodist preachers so named because they traveled a definite circuit or course using a pony or horse.

First mention of the Winthrop Circuit was in a history of the Masonville Class, when it was organized in 1866, by the Rev. Johnson. It was constituted a part of the Winthrop Circuit. In 1871 Wm. F. Dyre was appointed to the Winthrop Circuit, and reported Silver Creek, Masonville, and the Whitney Class very successful, but "Winthrop was not thus favored—membership not united."<sup>35</sup>

G. L. Garrison was appointed to the Masonville charge in 1885, and he started an appointment for the Methodists in the Baptist church at Winthrop. He reorganized the charge at Winthrop, July 27, 1886.<sup>36</sup> There were 16 members: Mrs. Wilhelmina H. Unbehaun, J. C. Unbehaun, H. C. Unbehaun, Mrs. Esther Unbehaun, T. R. Marshall, Mrs. Susan Marshall, Mrs. Jennine Overbaugh, Miss Sarah Marshall, Andrew J. Winnager, Mrs. Mary Winnager, Mrs. Philina Auton, Mrs. Jane Scott, S. N. Braden, Mrs. Julia Vancyeler, Willard Woodworth, and Mrs. Eliza Woodworth.<sup>37</sup>

During the year of 1886 the old school property was purchased, and the house, 26x36 feet in size, was remodeled into a church.<sup>38</sup> The church was located on what was commonly known as Zion's hill. The name had a double significance since it was the residence of Z. P. (Zion) Rich<sup>39</sup> and because of its Biblical importance. This church was dedicated December 12, with Brother E. May of Independence officiating. A bell was donated to the church by the Ham Bros. of New York, and in the spring of 1887, a belfry and vestibule were added to the church. A parsonage, first occupied by Rev. F. H. Wyrick, was built in the fall of 1888, and was principally paid for by the Ladies Aid Society during the next three years.<sup>40</sup>

34. Interview with Delmar Fairchild, church secretary and Mrs. Willard Gates, Sunday School Superintendent, Jan. 19, 1957.

35. The Winthrop News, July 26, 1906, History by Rev. A. W. Ownby.

36. Review, Oct. 11, 1894.

37. The Winthrop News, Aug. 2, 1906, History by Rev. A. W. Ownby.

38. Bulletin-Journal, July 15, 1886.

39. Journal, Dec. 21, 1881.

40. The Winthrop News, July 26, 1906. For a list of the M. E. pastors see Table IV.



Some unusual Christmas observances in the 1890s were the decorating of a cross and a ship in place of the traditional Christmas tree:

"Christmas Eve at the M. E. church was celebrated with a beautifully decorated cross, which was heavily laden with gifts for both young and old. The church was very tastefully and appropriately decorated and presented a very inviting appearance."<sup>41</sup>

"At the Methodist church on Christmas eve a very neat design in form of a ship took the place of the traditional tree, and was indeed made in a 'Jolly Tar' manner. With the exception of a sail catching afire, all went well as usual with the general Christmas eve."<sup>42</sup>

The church was rebuilt in 1896 and at the laying of the corner stone, July 11,

". . . an address was given upon the subject of 'Christ the Chief Cornerstone.' At the close of the address, the following articles were placed in a tin box, provided for the purpose. First, a brief history of the organization and growth of the church, together with the name of the present pastor, board of trustees, board of stewarts, Sunday school superintendent and president of the Epworth League. Second, a copy of the *Bible*, of the *Northwestern Christian Advocate*, and the discipline of the Methodist church. The box with its contents was placed into a vault and the stone sealed by Wm. Bartle."<sup>43</sup>

Over 600 people attended the dedication of the M. E. church Sunday, September 27, 1896:

". . . the church with its white walls and new and varnished chairs looked beautiful. Over \$200 was subscribed that day which put the church out of debt and leaves Winthrop with another beautiful house of worship. The church is divided into two parts with lifting doors in the center, so that the Epworth League can have a place for their meetings. A new bell costing \$105 was the gift of J. C. and H. C. Unbehaun."<sup>44</sup>

One of the church members made and presented a pulpit to the congregation in 1926:

"At the April 4 service in the M. E. church, the surprise of the morning was the presentation of a very beautiful pulpit given to the church by Marcus Dunlap. When the pastor read the in-

41. Winthrop Times, Dec. 29, 1888.

42. Review, Dec. 26, 1895.

43. Ibid., July 16, 1896.

44. Ibid., Oct. 1, 1896.



scription 'Presented to the M. E. church by Marcus Dunlap, April 4, 1926' the audience broke forth in a vigorous applause showing their sincere appreciation of this wonderful gift.

The walnut log from which this pulpit was made has quite a history. During the winter of 1888 it was cut down on the Dunlap forty some five miles southwest of Winthrop. Later it was taken to the Dunlap farm east of town then brought to Winthrop and for a time it graced the cabinet shop of Wm. Bradley and finally transformed into a beautiful pulpit. Marcus is not only generous but a genius."<sup>45</sup>

The Women's Society of Christian Service (W.S.C.S.) of the church was organized sometime prior to 1888, the first mention of the organization being in a history written by the Rev. A. W. Ownby. Under the Rev. J. L. Beatty in 1887

"... children's meetings were organized; prayer meetings were well attended; and so were young people's meetings led by Sister Minett."<sup>46</sup>

The Epworth League, an outgrowth of these early meetings, is still a prominent young people's group.

Since 1940, there have been various improvements made to the church property and furnishings. Under the Rev. M. J. Macauley's leadership the church was entirely redecorated. New pews were added, a kitchen built on, a new floor laid in the dining room, and new tables and chairs installed. Further improvements have been new hardwood floors in the church proper, an oil burning furnace, and a Hammond electric organ. A lighted bulletin board, given by the Frank Donlea family stands at the entrance, a memorial to Glenn Donlea who was killed in World War II.<sup>47</sup>

Since 1948 the Masonville M. E. church has been served by the Winthrop pastor. The present membership of the Winthrop church is 196, and the Sunday School enrollment is 140.<sup>48</sup>

#### *D. The South Summit*

Before the Catholic church was organized in Winthrop, visiting priests came at intervals to say Mass and to administer the sacraments in the homes of Pat Kelly, Dan Lorden, Pat Collins, and John Diggins. The Priests who visited Winthrop in those days were

---

45. The Winthrop News, April 8, 1926.

46. Ibid., July 26, 1906.

47. Paper by Mrs. L. L. Matson, prepared for W.S.C.S. meeting.

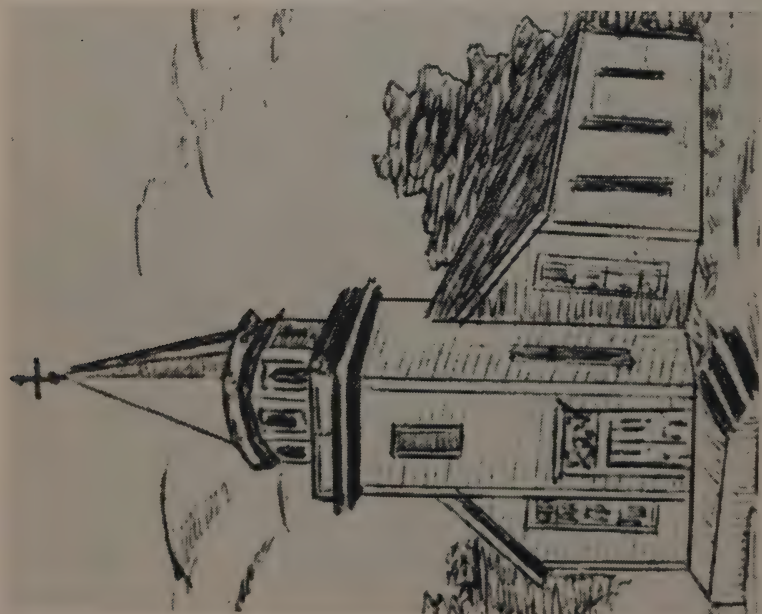
48. Interview with Rev. L. J. Faris, Jan. 19, 1957.



A. M. WENHOLZ HOME

Picture taken in 1885. House was built in 1867 or '68 by Rev. L. W. Brintnall, pastor of the Congregational Church (back-ground). It was sold to Samuel Braden in 1875. Sam Braden and Al Norman are shown leaning on the fence. The lady in the doorway is Mary (Merrill) Braden, wife of Sam Braden. Small boy standing is Samuel Venn Braden, son of Rich Braden. Lady seated is Mrs. Al Norman, holding Samuel Venn Norman. Lady by fence, Mrs. Maggie Day, sister of Sam Braden. Four generations have lived in the house. After Samuel and Mary Braden, Edwin and Mary Braden, Alfred and Edna (Braden) Wenholtz and their sons, Ted and Merrill.

BAPTIST CHURCH, 1893 (Left)  
Located on 5th and Monroe streets.



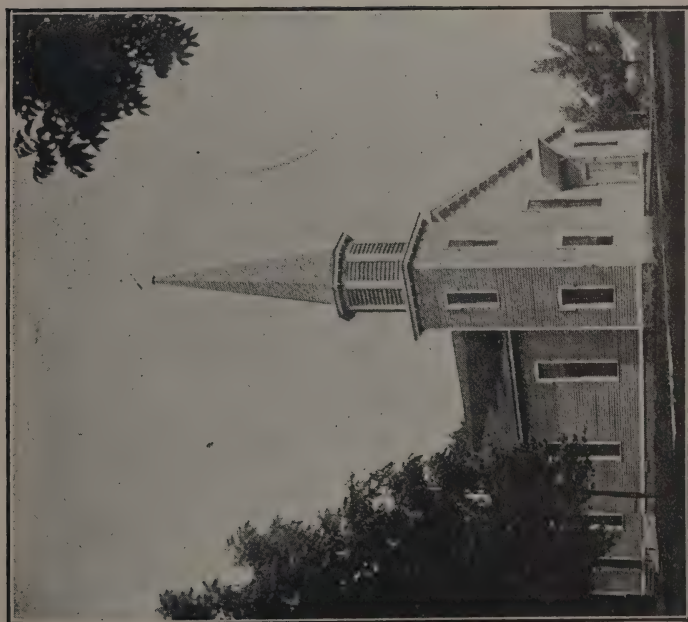
CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1893  
Located on present site.







METHODIST CHURCH, 1893



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 1893





### 5TH AND JACKSON STREET

View from schoolhouse corner east. Ladies with babies in perambulators, Mrs. Oscar Jones (Mary Palmetier) and Mrs. Fred Sheeley (Lottie Moore). Note kerosene street lamp. Taken in early 1900s.

Father John Shields of Waverly, and Father John Gosker of Independence.<sup>49</sup>

A Catholic church was organized in 1876, and the first membership included eight families. Church property was purchased for \$500, and included a brick yard with a house which was made over into a church. Father Thomas Clabby was the visiting priest at this time.<sup>50</sup>

In 1880 Winthrop was a mission of the church at Monti, and in 1883 Winthrop was attached to Masonville as a mission. During the time that it was a mission of Masonville, Father Dan Heelan "made the trip to Winthrop on a hand-car loaned by the railroad and propelled by some of his parishioners."<sup>51</sup>

A church to be located "on the summit of the hill in south Winthrop."<sup>52</sup> was planned by Father Heelan and completed under Father Thomas J. Murtagh. Services were held in the new church for the first time, Sunday, November 25, 1888.<sup>53</sup> A new altar and railing were received in August 1889.<sup>54</sup>

Back in 1889 the ladies held a "Catholic Fair at Clow's Hall and took in \$500."<sup>55</sup> In '96 a Sun-flower social was held and the

"... hall presented the appearance of a veritable flower garden with its tasteful decorations of sun-flowers . . . the net proceeds were about \$30 which will be used for the decoration of the interior of the church."<sup>56</sup>

The church was made a parish in 1902, and Father James Mulligan was appointed the first resident pastor. He lived in a rented house<sup>57</sup> and in 1903 enlarged the church:

"Over at the Catholic church where improvements are being made everything is progressing in a satisfactory manner. The wall for the furnace cellar is a perfect foundation. The furnace is being furnished by F. S. Wetmur and the work is under the personal supervision of Mr. Wetmur which insures its thorough completion. The addition to the audience room and the enlargement of the church is done by and under contract with Marcus

49. Conservative, Section O, Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955.

50. Chappell and Chappell, *op. cit.*, p. 234.

51. Conservative, Section O, Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955.

52. Review, June 21, 1900.

53. Journal, Nov. 29, 1888.

54. *Ibid.*, Aug. 8, 1889.

55. *Ibid.*, Feb. 14, 1889.

56. Review, Aug. 6, 1896.

57. Conservative, Section O, Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955. For a list of the Catholic priests see Table V.

Dunlap. The fact that Marcus is in charge guarantees that the rebuilding will be satisfactory."<sup>58</sup>

The first parochial residence, a large frame house, was built during Father P. A. Trumm's pastorate in 1904. Father John McCormick came in October 1912, and a modern brick residence was built in 1915. The old house was sold and moved to a new location in the southwest part of town.<sup>59</sup>

The parish purchased three acres of land from E. E. Collins in 1917 for the purpose of a cemetery. It is situated

"... on a nice elevation, a short distance south of the church.

It can surely be made a silent city and a veritable God's acre for the sanctified dead."<sup>60</sup>

The first person buried in the cemetery was a baby of transients who happened through Winthrop. There is no marker of any kind, but it is believed that the body is buried on the north side of the cemetery.<sup>61</sup>

Work was started on a new Catholic church, built north of the old church building, in 1923. The church "will contain 84 pews, with a seating capacity of 420."<sup>62</sup>

The cornerstone of the new St. Patrick's church was laid on August 5, 1923:

"In the copper box placed in the corner stone were a history of the parish down to the present time, the names of the ecclesiastical authorities, the names of our government officers, the president of our country, the governor of our state, the mayor of our town, the names of the directors of the new church and building committee, some religious articles, a copy of the Diocesan paper *America* and the *Winthrop News*, also a copy of the *Dubuque Telegraph* containing an account of the life, death, and funeral of our late president, Warren G. Harding. The box was then sealed and placed in the corner stone, upon which was engraved: 1876-1923, St. Patrick's Church."<sup>63</sup>

The first services were held in the church on February 24, 1924. All the new furnishings were purchased by the Ladies Guild, "who have worked faithfully for the past ten years with this object in view." The dedication took place Tuesday, June 24.<sup>64</sup>

58. Review, Nov. 5, 1903.

59. Conservative, Section O, Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955.

60. The Winthrop News, May 24, 1917.

61. Interview with Ronald Collins, Jan. 14, 1957.

62. The Winthrop News, June 14, 1923.

63. Ibid., Aug. 12, 1923.

64. Ibid., Feb. 28, 1924, and June 26, 1924.

Father McCormick died at Winthrop in January 1928. Father J. B. McDonald carried on the work, as administrator of the parish, until September of that year when Father J. L. Byrnes was appointed. He was succeeded by Father D. N. O'Leary who remained for two years.<sup>65</sup>

A new bell was dedicated for St. Patrick's church Sunday, March 31, 1940. This was the "first bell in the history of the Catholic Church" and the purchase was made possible by a bequest of the late Miss Mary O'Rourke. She was housekeeper for the Rev. J. M. McCormick when the new brick church was built.<sup>66</sup>

Father J. H. Krieger came in 1941, and the present pastor Father E. J. Supple came in November 1949.<sup>67</sup>

The Winthrop Theatre was purchased by the church in May 1949 from Theodore Reinhold. Since then

" . . . the basement has undergone improvements, including a newly remodeled, enlarged and fully equipped kitchen . . . and will hereafter be known as St. Patrick's Hall."<sup>68</sup>

In 1955, the main floor of the hall, which had been formerly used as a theatre, was remodeled into four class rooms in which to teach religion. Classes are held two days a week. Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters who opened the school were: Sister Mary Imelda, appointed Superior in 1956, Sister Mary Gabriel, Sister Joan Louise, and Sister Goretti.<sup>69</sup>

The St. Patrick's Guild, formerly known as the Rosary, is the earliest organization of the ladies in the church. It is now divided into six circles. Each circle is assigned two months of the year for parish social activities and the care of the church. There are 112 members at the present.

Other organizations include: the Holy Name society, a men's group organized in 1946; the Little Flower Study Club was organized in 1941;<sup>70</sup> and the Cana Couples Study Club was organized in 1956.<sup>71</sup>

The present church membership comprises 110 families as compared with eight in 1876.<sup>72</sup>

---

65. Conservative, Section O, Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955.

66. The Winthrop News, April 4, 1940.

67. Conservative, Section O, Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955.

68. The Winthrop News, Aug. 25, 1949.

69. Interview with Miss Martha Osterhaus, Jan. 14, 1957.

70. Interview with Mrs. Leonard Peterson, Jan. 19, 1957.

71. Interview with Mrs. Gordon Donlea, Jan. 19, 1957.

72. Interview with Father E. J. Supple, Dec. 27, 1956.



*E. The Seventh Day Adventists*

The first notice of the Seventh Day Adventists was in 1887 when they held a State camp meeting in town:

"Report says the Adventists will hold their State camp meeting at Winthrop, in a week or two. Winthrop while not accepting their peculiar doctrines, will be glad to have them come. We shall give them a most cordial welcome."<sup>73</sup>

Proof of the organization of the group comes from the obituary of A. P. Foster:

"A. P. Foster became a member of the Seventh Day Adventist church in 1887 when it was organized in Winthrop."<sup>74</sup>

Converts of the faith were baptised by immersion in the Buffalo Creek and drew large crowds:

"Winthrop might easily have been captured last Sunday afternoon judging from the concourse numbering upwards of five hundred people who wended their way by carriage and foot to the waterside, in Mr. N. B. Norman's field, east of town, to witness the solemnization of the Christian baptismal rite.

There were four candidates, two ladies and two gentlemen, who were recently converted to the Christian faith as taught and practiced by the Seventh Day Adventists, in the revival services conducted in their church.

It was an affecting sight and as the two aged candidates who had passed the allotted 'three-score years and ten' were laid in the watery baptismal grave, a thrill almost tragical passed through the vast audience who stood on the grass carpeted banks.

The exercises were opened by the familiar song, "Shall We Gather at the River" and prayer. The "Cleansing Stream" was sung at suitable intervals, and the solemn and impressive service closed with the doxology and benediction."<sup>75</sup>

The society built a small church building, which was dedicated on November 1, 1891. They had no regular minister, but the lay members held service each Sabbath (Saturday). The membership was not large.<sup>76</sup>

The church was still in existence in January 1908,<sup>77</sup> but must have disbanded soon afterwards, as no further information could be found.

73. Journal, Sept. 8, 1887.

74. The Winthrop News, March 22, 1917.

75. Review, April 26, 1894.

76. Ibid., Oct. 24, 1894.

77. The Winthrop News, Jan. 23, 1908.

In 1938 I. L. Hand purchased the church building, and moved it to Main Street where it is now the front part of his store. Prior to this it was used by N. J. Dennie for a garage and shop.<sup>78</sup>

#### *F. Old Time Religious Thoughts*

A church directory published in the *Buchanan County Weekly Review* in 1893 listed services in the Congregational and Methodist churches at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. and Sabbath School at 12 o'clock. Prayer meeting was every Thursday evening. The Baptist church held services at 2:30 p.m. and the Catholic church had Mass every alternate Sunday.<sup>79</sup>

The strong feeling against smoking in the 1900s is shown in a movement against the habit by the Sunday Schools:

"May 20th is the date set by all the Sunday schools of Iowa for a crusade against cigarettes. Pledges will be taken looking for a cure for the cigarette habit. Winthrop is particularly free from the disgusting cigarette. But few of our people use them and it is a pleasure to print this. If the user knew that his presence reminds one of the smell of a wet dog burning he would quit the coffin nail, surely."<sup>80</sup>

As a reminder of the evangelistic type religion then prevalent, a description of a tent meeting in 1910 follows:

"The union revival meetings commenced last week. A large tent 40x150 feet has been put up opposite the school building, and is splendidly seated and lighted. On Sunday Mr. Forsythe delivered his celebrated lecture to men only, 'Hot Shot' or 'The Devil's Stew Pan' . . . Mrs. Forsythe, wife of the evangelist spoke to women only, on 'Woman's Opportunity' . . . Another lecture, prohibited to boys under 14, was the 'Devil, a Crapshooter' . . . Winthrop hasn't been stirred so much religiously in years."<sup>81</sup>

Thus, from the days of the "circuit-rider" to the existing religious organizations of today, there is a marked difference in the religious feelings and beliefs of the community. The organization of the school, the grading, and consolidation will be a few of the educational advances discussed in Chapter VI.

---

78. Interview with Mrs. I. L. Hand, Jan. 14, 1957.

79. *Weekly Review*, Jan. 5, 1893.

80. *The Winthrop News*, May 3, 1906.

81. *Ibid.*, July 28, 1910.

# The School

## *A. The School Plant Before 1900*

A five mill tax for the erection of a school house was voted for in 1865.<sup>1</sup> The first schoolhouse was completed in 1866 for the winter school term of three months.<sup>2</sup> It was located where the Methodist Church now stands. The first teachers were Miss McCurdy and E. S. Stockwell.<sup>3</sup> Before this, classes were held in a small building behind Main Street with John Graham as the first teacher.<sup>4</sup>

By 1868 the school showed much progress:

"The citizens recently organized an independent district. It is evident to all that increased school facilities must very soon be secured . . . Mr. E. S. Stockwell, the teacher, is one of the most successful in the county. The district has done well to retain him for the summer school. This school was awarded the prize banner for progress during the winter term."<sup>5</sup>

A "large and commodious" two-story frame school building was built in 1871.<sup>6</sup> This building was erected on the same site as our school today.<sup>7</sup> The property was included in the town when it was incorporated in 1886.<sup>8</sup>

In 1885, a principal was hired at a salary of \$50 per month, and a primary teacher for \$35 per month. These were the only instructors of the school.<sup>9</sup>

At an 1891 meeting of the school board, it was decided to purchase fifty "automatic seats" for the high school department.

According to a news commentary at this time, this was a

" . . . commendable move upon their part and we hope that it will be only a short time until the relics of antiquity in the other rooms will be condemned."<sup>10</sup>

1. Bulletin, Aug. 22, 1865.

2. Conservative, Oct. 26, 1866. For a list of the school superintendents see Table VI.

3. Paper by Jeanette Fox, op. cit., published Feb. 9, 1922.

4. Letter from L. W. Rich, op. cit., published July 1, 1909.

5. Bulletin, April 24, 1868.

6. Review, Oct. 25, 1894.

7. Interview with Eugene Dunlap, Jan. 19, 1957.

8. Town record, Minute book, No. 1, p. 14.

9. From school secretary's books of 1885, published in *The Winthrop News*, March 7, 1929.

10. *The Winthrop Times*, Dec. 23, 1891.

School began September 12, 1892, with 120 pupils in attendance. The teachers were Miss Maxon, primary; Miss Addie Potter, intermediate; and Miss Gillett, assistant to Prof. Goodrich, in grammar and high school.<sup>11</sup>

The school board ordered in 1893 that

" . . . storm windows be put on the schoolhouse as soon as possible. This is a much needed improvement and it will in a short time save more than they cost."<sup>12</sup>

### *B. The School Plant, 1900-1940*

School notes in 1900 showed improvements in the school:

"The board of education has transformed the old school house into a palace. They put up 80 feet of slate blackboard; new curtains for the upper room and the intermediate room and matting for the upper room around the room. It was the greatest surprise the school house has witnessed for 20 years."<sup>13</sup>

An election held March 17, 1904, resulted in a victory for the proposition to erect a new building. It passed by a vote of 121 for and 112 against.<sup>14</sup>

During the summer a \$10,000 public school building had been erected and was "the best finished and equipped public schoolhouse in the county, with all modern conveniences and appliances."<sup>15</sup>

On October 12, 1908, school commenced after a couple of weeks of inaction over a disagreement between the school board and the teachers about recess and administrative policies. The school board took it for granted, from a letter received and signed by all the teachers, that every room would be vacated by them after October 2. Although the teachers were asked "to forget their grievances", they refused, and so this made it incumbent upon the board to fill their places. However, even until school began with the new teachers, the old teachers reported regularly at the schoolhouse for duty twice daily, claiming they had not resigned and were yet teachers of the school. Just what

" . . . their grievance is against the board is not clear. They claim it is not a question of recess . . . A matter of principle, whether the teachers or the board shall run the schools perhaps is as near as can be gotten at, barring any specific cause for the

11. Ibid., Sept. 14, 1892.

12. Review, Jan. 12, 1893.

13. Ibid., Oct. 11, 1900.

14. Ibid., March 17, 1904.

15. Ibid., Dec. 1, 1904.



notice of resignation tendered which was not mentioned in the notice save in a general way.”<sup>16</sup>

Although the old teachers reported daily at the schoolhouse, they were not admitted back into the system.

At 3 o'clock on Wednesday morning, December 16, 1914, the school building was destroyed by fire. The origin was supposedly from combustion in the coal bin. The blaze was discovered by Rob Farrell

“ . . . who heard an unusual noise . . . by the time the hose cart and citizens arrived upon the scene the fire had gained such headway that nothing could be done to save anything . . . ”<sup>17</sup>

The M. E. and Congregational churches, and the I.O.O.F. hall were used for classes during the remainder of the year.<sup>18</sup>

A special election in April 1915 approved the issuing of

“ . . . bonds in the sum of \$15,000, to purchase land adjoining the site already owned, and to build, equip, and furnish a schoolhouse.”<sup>19</sup>

The houses and other property on the schoolhouse site were “sold at public auction and \$1,175.50 was realized.”<sup>20</sup> School commenced in the new building in November 1915.<sup>21</sup>

In May 1917 a flag staff, 40 feet in height, was raised on the school grounds.<sup>22</sup> The first telephone was installed in 1921, a gift of the graduating class of that year.<sup>23</sup>

In April 1926, voters decided 206-122 for a new addition to the schoolhouse. \$25,000 in bonds were issued for the purpose. The addition on the north was completed in December.<sup>24</sup>

### *C. The School Plant, 1940—The Present*

An acre and a third of land west of the school building was purchased to be used as a ball field in 1945.<sup>25</sup>

At a special election held April 29, 1947, a large majority, 436-98, voted in favor of establishing a Consolidated Independent School District of Winthrop. Districts included in the consolidation were:

---

16. The Winthrop News, Oct. 15, 1908.

17. Ibid., Dec. 17, 1914.

18. Loc. cit.

19. The Winthrop News, April 15, 1915.

20. Ibid., May 13, 1915.

21. Ibid., Nov. 25, 1915.

22. Ibid., May 17, 1917.

23. Ibid., May 19, 1921.

24. Ibid., April 22, 1926, and Dec. 23, 1926.

25. Ibid., Sept. 20, 1945.

Byron sub-districts, numbers 2, 4, 5, 7, 8; Fremont numbers 1, 2, 5, 6; Liberty numbers 1, 2, 6; and Middlefield sub-districts numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 8.<sup>26</sup>

The new consolidated school directors were: Fred Peck, Peter J. Gaffney, Walter Klever, Howard Arnold, E. A. Dunlap, and treasurer, J. S. Luther.<sup>27</sup>

The school opened with a record enrollment of 276 grade pupils and 101 high school students. There were seven buses, as compared to one back in 1938, and four in 1946.<sup>28</sup>

A hot lunch program was started in the fall of 1949, serving 300 pupils a day.<sup>29</sup>

Voters of the district approved a \$150,000 bond issue to erect a new high school addition to the present school in 1949. There were 230 votes for and 116 against the issue.<sup>30</sup>

The climax of several years of effort, through consolidation and a building program, was given in the form of a dedication at the new gym-auditorium on March 5, 1951.<sup>31</sup>

#### *D. Tuition, Rules, Curriculum Before 1900*

The board of directors adopted McGuffey's Readers in 1881, and also placed "two new coal stoves in the upper room of the school building."<sup>32</sup>

In 1891 a vote in the school for the most popular books listed them in the following order: *Bible*, *Shakespeare*, *Longfellow*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Tennyson's Poems*, *Paradise Lost*, *Whittier's Poems*, *Pickwick Papers*, *Ben Hur*, *Scott's Poems*, *History of England* (Macaulay), *Robinson Crusoe*, and *Life of Washington*.<sup>33</sup>

The tuition per term in 1893, for scholars living outside of the school district was \$4.80 and "payable in advance." Many of these students worked for their board and room in town, while attending school.<sup>34</sup>

Some of the rules and regulations for the government of the school in 1893 were:

26. Ibid., May 1, 1947.

27. Ibid., May 29, 1947.

28. Ibid., Sept. 4, 1947.

29. Ibid., Sept. 8, 1949.

30. Ibid., Jan. 20, 1949.

31. Ibid., March 8, 1951.

32. Bulletin, Jan. 7, 1881.

33. Bulletin-Journal, Jan. 29, 1891.

34. Review, Aug. 31, 1893.

"Rule V—The teachers shall be in their rooms at least fifteen minutes prior to the opening of each school session.

Rule VI—The pupils must be in their seats at the opening of each school session before the ringing of the bell for tardiness.

Rule XIII—Pupils shall forfeit their membership if they are absent from the school for three consecutive days, and they will be required to present to the Superintendent a reasonable excuse signed by their parents or guardians before they can be re-instated to full membership.

Rule XIV—Ten tardy or imperfect marks shall work a forfeiture of membership unless excused by the Board of Education.

Rule XV—The first ringing of the bell for each session shall be at 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The second ringing of the bell shall be at 8:55 a.m. and 12:55 p.m. The bell for tardiness shall ring at 9:05 a.m. and 1:05 p.m.

Rule XVI—Pupils not residing in this district shall pay a tuition of forty cents per week. Said tuition per term shall be paid invariably in advance."<sup>35</sup>

Text books used in the grammar and high school departments at this time were:

"Mathematics—Fish, and Cluney's Arithmetics, and Wentworth's Algebra

Reading—Swinton's and Kidd's Elocution

Spelling—Swinton's and Wright's Orthography

History—Barnes' and Swinton's

Grammar—Conklin, Kellogg's Rhetoric, and Harkness' Latin

Physiology—Smith, and Tracy

Penmanship—Spencerian

Drawing—Prang's system

Geography—Swinton's

Language—Bright, and Metcalf

Civil Government—Rosenberger, and Ostrander."<sup>36</sup>

The U. S. history class was studying "the thrilling events of the Civil War, which their fathers and uncles took part in thirty years ago."<sup>37</sup> The course of study included ten years of work and the County Superintendent went to all of the schools in the county and examined students who did not have a grade standing.<sup>38</sup>

35. Review, Sept. 7, 1893.

36. Ibid., Sept. 21, 1893.

37. Loc. cit.

38. Review, Sept. 21, 1893.

Some of the courses of study in high school in 1896 included: grammar, rhetoric, civil government, word analysis, business arithmetic, Latin, physiology, and physical geography. The department of

"... vocal music and voice culture will be given twenty minutes a day. Drawing will be given twenty minutes, on two days. Penmanship will be given twenty minutes during three days, and Phonography or Shorthand will be given twenty minutes daily."<sup>39</sup>

### *E. Curricular and Extracurricular Activities After 1900*

An item in a 1900 paper said:

"Only three were on the honor roll in November, as many who were on in October failed to comply with the new rules adopted this month. No pupil who has communicated orally or in writing, who has chewed apples, gum, etc. during the session, who has used slang, or who has profaned the name of God will be entitled to a place on the Roll of Honor."<sup>40</sup>

There were 45 pupils in the high school department, and the names of those who whispered or were tardy were published in the town paper.<sup>41</sup>

In 1906, the 11th grade was added to the school courses.<sup>42</sup> There was no graduating class from the school in 1915, owing to the fact that the next year the school became a fully accredited 12-year school.<sup>43</sup>

The first school annual "Purple and Gold" was published in 1916 by the junior class and Miss Dorothy Otto, their sponsor. The staff included all of the juniors: Marjorie Miller, Sadie Ferguson, Nola Tennis, Fred Gates, Joe King, Burnita Norman, Winita Gould, Mildred Kershner, Louise Gates, and Clyde Meffert and Grace Harrington, sophomores. There were 27 sheets in the annual, and Mrs. Arley Braden (Miss Otto) has the original or "dummy."<sup>44</sup>

The Aonian and Ionian groups were popular high school literary societies at this time.<sup>45</sup>

Winthrop entered its first county declamatory contest on April 6, 1917. Miss Bernice McFarland "carried off the county honors by winning with her selection 'Bobby Shafto' in the dramatic division."<sup>46</sup>

39. Ibid., July 2, 1896.

40. Ibid., Oct. 11, 1900.

41. Loc. cit.

42. From the 1916 school annual, "Purple and Gold."

43. The Winthrop News, June 10, 1915.

44. Ibid., March 23, 1916.

45. Ibid., Oct. 12, 1916.

46. Ibid., April 19, 1917.



In 1918 about half the Senior class had "given up their school work to help Uncle Sam." Because of this there was no class play, only commencement and baccalaureate services:

"Typical of the patriotic spirit, which has been so marked in the high school throughout the year, it was the decision of the juniors to give up the annual (third). The increased expense in the publication of a year book rendered it impracticable, and the time otherwise spent on the Annual is devoted to Junior Red Cross."<sup>47</sup>

The first school paper ever published at Winthrop high school was the "Wejogon" published by the Kappa Delta Literary society. The first issue appeared in December 1920.<sup>48</sup>

The school was accepted for membership in the National High School Honor Society in 1945.<sup>49</sup> Kindergarten was included for the first time in the Winthrop curriculum in 1947.<sup>50</sup>

### *F. Sports*

The first record of a football game being played in Winthrop was in 1907, when the team played Independence and lost, 31-5. The sport was fairly new in the vicinity:

"A good crowd witnessed the game and many saw their first. It was something new to them. The battle ground was in Ned Collins' pasture next to the east railroad crossing. The lineup was:

Center, Edgar Bloom  
 Left guard, Charles Allen  
 Left tackle, Frank Copeland  
 Right guard, Max Dubois  
 Right tackle, Joe Love  
 Right end, Dean Soules  
 Left end, Will Singer  
 Quarterback, Max Brintnall  
 Fullback, George Reed  
 Right half, Laurence Gaylord  
 Left half, Sidney Slaughter."<sup>51</sup>

After the early 1900s no mention was made of football, until it was started again in the fall of 1925. It was again discontinued in 1932, and baseball was introduced in its place.<sup>52</sup>

47. *Ibid.*, May 2, 1918.

48. *Ibid.*, Dec. 30, 1920.

49. *Ibid.*, Feb. 22, 1945.

50. *Ibid.*, July 31, 1947.

51. Review, Nov. 14, 1907.

52. The Winthrop News, Sept. 18, 1932.

The first basketball game played by the high school was with Independence on October 29, 1915, and ended in a victory 11-4. The game was played in the Winthrop opera house as the school was not yet completed. The boys were

"... calm from the start and played like veterans. Some of the boys were not eligible to play on account of the use of tobacco and low grades."<sup>53</sup>

The first team included: Ned Hickman, rf, Will Bishop, lf, Joe King, c, Floyd Hickman, lg, Fred Hickman, rg, and Fred Gates, and Robert Heckel, substitutes.<sup>54</sup>

Winthrop won its first sectional basketball tournament (Class B) in 1927 by defeating Hopkinton in the finals, 24-20. First string was Dunlap, Allyn, Hitchens, Peck, Gillette, and Daniels, coach.<sup>55</sup>

In 1933, Coach T. R. Stuelke's baseball team defeated Brandon, 5-4 to win the first Buchanan County baseball championship for the school.<sup>56</sup>

### *G. School Days!*

L. W. Rich, the first child born in Fremont township, tells of his school days at the schoolhouse, which was located where the Methodist church now stands:

"Addie Potter used to have the finest head of hair in town and wore it hanging loose down her back. One day we were playing 'pull-a-way' when I took after Addie. I caught her by the hair, a very ungentlemanly trick, and of course pulled her hair and hurt her. When the teacher found out that I had disgraced the school by such an unmanly act, something had to be done; so he called me onto the rostrum and as he reached up and took a well seasoned hazle withe, he asked whether I would prefer to go home or take a whipping and I said I would take a whipping, as I thought that would be easier than explaining to father. So he firmly impressed the heinousness of the crime upon me and my memory, until there was no hazle withe left. I have never admired loose hanging hair since . . ."<sup>57</sup>

Some of the activities in 1889 included sleighrides and entertainment at the school house:

"A grand school entertainment will be held at the schoolhouse Friday and Saturday evenings . . . First night, part first, 'Under

53. Ibid., Nov. 4, 1915.

54. Loc. cit.

55. The Winthrop News, March 10, 1927.

56. Ibid., May 11, 1933.

57. Letter from L. W. Rich, op. cit., published July 1, 1909.

the Laurels', part second, 'Dynamite.' Second night, part first, 'Dot, the Miner's Daughter', part second, 'Honesty is the best Policy.' Admission, adults, 25c, children 15c. Doors open at 7 o'clock, commence at 8 o'clock sharp."<sup>58</sup>

In January 1893 the teachers and a number of pupils went to Independence to visit the schools there. They report a

"... good time and would like to have teachers and scholars of the Independence, and other schools to return the call, and especially while there is good sleighing."<sup>59</sup>

School was closed and a school picnic held on the grounds on June 16, 1893. The program consisted of songs, declamations, essays, select readings, and the graduating exercises. The picnic

"... passed off very pleasantly, barring a few accidents. Miss Mary O'Connor was thrown from a buggy that morning and was severely stunned. She was unable to deliver the valedictory for her class, and Mabel Kinney fell from a hammock and received some bruises..."<sup>60</sup>

In 1917 the students in the high school purchased a Victrola, and held a concert to help pay for it. Victrolas were then considered "new and important accessories to a thorough educational program."<sup>61</sup>

"Lights burned all night" at the high school, January 28, 1949, when people coming from the county tournament at Lamont "found the going rough."

About 150 people from Jesup, Rowley, and St. John's of Independence spent the night at the school. The people

"... listened to the phonograph, and tried to sleep on the tables in the primary room . . . about 5 a.m. the snow plow went through and the people were able to proceed."<sup>62</sup>

More than 310 persons, 210 alumni, attended an Alumni Banquet, held November 29, 1952. The senior class, under the direction of Mrs. Beth Kunkle, planned the banquet, and all past graduates were invited.<sup>63</sup>

### *H. The P.T.A.*

At an open house in 1916 a Parent-Teachers organization was formed with Dr. H. A. Housholder as president.<sup>64</sup> The group ap-

58. Bulletin-Journal, March 21, 1889.

59. Review, Jan. 26, 1893.

60. Ibid., June 15, 1893, and June 22, 1893.

61. The Winthrop News, April 5, 1917.

62. Ibid., Feb. 3, 1949.

63. Ibid., Dec. 4, 1952.

64. Ibid., Nov. 29, 1916.

parently fell by the wayside due to the war. Then on December 11, 1950, largely through the efforts of the Woman's Literary Club, a P.T.A. was organized with 125 charter members. First officers were: President, E. F. Timson, vice president, Ted Wenholz, secretary, Mrs. Maurice Conrad, and treasurer, Mrs. Ronald Collins.<sup>65</sup>

Members who have served as president are: E. F. Timson, E. L. Wenholz, Mrs. Beryl Smith, Gilbert Carson, and Mrs. Vernon Hoffman. The organization has equipped a first aid room, a teachers lounge and they are in charge of the Red Cross swimming lessons, and various other service projects.<sup>66</sup>

The school band, glee club, and small music groups have throughout the years received numerous honors at music contests. The girls, as well as the boys, have received many athletic trophies. Thus, from the beginning of a school with one teacher, there are now 21 teachers and 491 pupils, 118 in high school and 373 in grade school.<sup>67</sup>

Chapter VII will introduce the active clubs and organizations of the town.

---

65. Ibid., Dec. 14, 1950.

66. P.T.A. secretary books, Mrs. Gordon Donlea, secretary.

67. Interview with Supt. M. F. Cheever, Jan. 20, 1957.



## Social Groups, Organizations, and Recreation

### *A. Early Social Groups*

Social activities during this period, included "sociables" in the homes in winter, and on the lawns in summer, taffy pulls, oyster suppers, school programs, box socials, surprise parties, and picnics.

Krokinole clubs were the rage in 1897, and in the same year a party with a touch of the unusual was given, when:

"The young men received invitations to a 'hide and seek' party. All the young ladies gathered in one home . . and waited with considerable anxiety until being discovered . . ." <sup>1</sup>

The Reciprocity Club was organized in 1899 by eighteen couples, which was to last for many years. There was a Mother's Club, which was "studying Mrs. Harrison's book on Child Culture."<sup>2</sup>

### *B. Entertainment*

There were many home talent plays given by various groups, and they included such titles as "Ten Nights in a Bar Room",<sup>3</sup> "The Noble Outcast", and "The Merry Cobbler".<sup>4</sup> Tent shows often came to town with "Uncle Tom's Cabin" appearing most frequently.<sup>5</sup> Chautauquas were looked forward to with anticipation.<sup>6</sup> Winter lecture or Lyceum courses also drew large crowds.<sup>7</sup>

One of the first motion pictures to come to town was in 1906:

"Prof. Ringer and his moving picture show occupied the Opera house . . . gave a three day headache and St. Vitus dance . . . were squeaky, scratchy, dizzy things that make the average man reach for the Peruna bottle when he gets home to quiet his nerves."<sup>8</sup>

By 1912, the electric moving (but silent) picture show was

" . . . giving the best of satisfaction. Misses Arley and Gladys Higman, and Donna Miller have charge of the music."<sup>9</sup>

1. Review, Feb. 18, 1897, and Sept. 16, 1897.

2. Ibid., Jan. 15, 1899, and April 20, 1899.

3. Bulletin, April 1, 1886.

4. Review, Nov. 27, 1902, and June 25, 1903.

5. Ibid., June 22, 1893, and The Winthrop News, July 28, 1910.

6. The Winthrop News, Aug. 18, 1910.,

7. Ibid., July 17, 1901, and Oct. 25, 1919.

8. Ibid., Jan. 25, 1906.

9. Ibid., June 13, 1912.



SCHOOLHOUSE

This school built in 1871 was first to be located on the present site.



#### GRADUATING CLASS OF 1890

Standing, left to right—Aggie Kirkpatrick, Delphia Brown, Minnie Slaughter.  
Seated, Ada Anderson, Anna Farrel, and Lucy Washburn. E. E. Collins, also  
a member of the class, not pictured.





PRIMARY ROOM, JUNE 1892

Back row, left to right—Lila Kirkpatrick, Alice Hekel, Eva Stutson, Rosa Pierce, teacher; Nettie Brown, Millie Brintnall, Florence Dunlap. Third row, left to right—S. T. Spangler, Leonard Gaylord, Steven Rich, Jim Slaughter, Leo Bodell, Clark Smith, Earl Day, Dan Shine, Ullis Hekel, Lester DeGrief. Second row, left to right—Claude Schriner, Joe McCann, Mark Goodrich, Venn Norman, Glen Norman, Arly Braden, Karl Moore, Carey Jack, Leon Matson, Bernard Matson\*, Ben Cook. Front row, left to right—Maude Schriner, Nettie Housholder, Millie Smith, Maggie Schafer, Myrtle Slaughter, Georgia Burdick, Bessie Gaylord, Arley Higman, Pearl Owen, Elsie DeGrief, Gracie Griswold. \*Leon and Bernard Matson, of Deadwood, S. Dak., were living with their grandparents, the Andrew Winingers, for a year and attending school here, because of the Wounded Knee Indian Uprising in South Dakota.





INTERMEDIATE ROOM, JUNE 1922

Back row, left to right—Henry Jones, Frank Kinney, Frank Van Horn, Addie Potter, teacher; Ben Braden, Hal Housholder, With Braden. Third row, left to right—Fred Slaughter, Frank Schriner, Joe Singer, Mart Bucher, Willie Carney, Earl Brintnall, Jay Moore. Second row, left to right—Julia Orvis, Grace Rich, Mame Mathers, Maude Kitch, Cynthia VanHorn, Cora Knowles, Edith Slaughter, Rebecca Johnson, Maybelle Rich, Park Van Horn, Vern Stutson. Front row, left to right—Susie Cook, Susie Orvis, Stella DeGrief, Mildred Goodrich, Elvie Baitey, Maude Norman, Mabel Jack, Iva Knowles, John Farrell, Perl Norman.



HIGH SCHOOL, JUNE 1892

Back row, left to right—Will Swartzell, Galen Potter, Bert Slaughter, Prof. M. J. Goodrich, George Fox, Mart McGraw, Matt Reidy. Third row, left to right—Ada Anderson, Minnie Slaughter, Roxena Morse, Cliffie Glass, Lillie Singer, Sadie Farrell, Maude Goodrich, Winnie Fredrich, Silvia Sampson, Fannie Sampson, Clara Lorang. Second row, left to right—Lottie Moore, Hattie McFarland, May Palmeter, Anna Cooney, Milly Bloom, Hattie Stutson, Marion Barnard, Nina Sproul, Maggie McMaster, Nellie Bucher, Jessie Ferguson, Flora Rogers. Front row, left to right—Lura Shriner, Mabel Kinney, Lizzie Braden, Maggie Farrell, Harold Brintnall, Roy Hovey, Frank Housholder.





### CLASS OF 1892

Back row, left to right—Maude Goodrich, Belle Singer, Fannie Sampson, Lillie Singer. Second row, left to right—Cliffie Glass, Winifred Frederick, Sylvia Sampson, Clara Lorang, Mary Clow. Third row, seated—Will Swartzel, Matt Reidy, Charley Cooney and Bernard Mackin.





HIGH SCHOOL, 1903

In doorway, George Kirkpatrick, janitor. Back row, left to right—Floyd Wheeler, Ray Dunlap, Arley Higman, Edith McFarland, Maud Dennie, Nellie Terry, Pearl Thompson, Della Bloom, Millie Smith, Mable Kirschner, Fleeta Sutton, Cora Marshall, Nell Gaylord, Enos Plank, Florence Jenkins, Floyd Smith\*, Rena Unbehaun. Third row, left to right, Miss Ida Hullerman, teacher, Carl Moore, Mary Nibeck, Jean Thompson, Susie Moore, Lana Peterson, Della Hearn, Ula Brown, Bess Gaylord, Marge Kinney, Genevieve McCann, Prof. C. G. Sutton. Second row, left to right—Coe Braden, Gilbert Brintnall, Harry Lake, Clayton Rich, Harley Sutton, Louis Jack, Glenn Miller, Dale Thompson, Percy Plank. Front row, left to right—Fred Jenkins, Clifford Knowles, Milton Norman, Gale Wheeler, Dale Griswold, Merle Webber, Minnie Peterson, Maggie Hickey, Gladys Higman. Seated on ground, Fred Dennie, Will Bucher, Clarence Eddy, Norman Bigelow. \*Floyd Smith is a missionary in the Philippine Islands.



### BASKETBALL TEAM OF 1918

Top row: Ned Hickman, Lehan Ryan, Mgr., Second row: Don Dunlap, Donald McFarland, Harry Curry; Front: Fred Hickman and Clyde Meffert.



### *C. Popular Sports*

Croquet was popular in 1879<sup>10</sup>, and in 1907 the current Croquet Club ordered

" . . . a beautiful hand-painted set of croquet mallets, balls and arches, and will occupy the waterworks yard for their games in the future."<sup>11</sup>

Pitching horseshoes was often a popular diversion, but in 1887 someone lamented:

"The horseshoe is a good institution, but quite a majority of our citizens regret that they should be pitched through the air on Sunday."<sup>12</sup>

Public roller skating and tennis appeared in 1905. The management of the Opera House purchased skates for this "most enjoyable of sports." Tennis tournaments between towns were held after a tennis court was

" . . . leveled and built on the Ed Braden land just north of the city waterworks pump station. It promises to be a perfect ground where the lovers of the game will find much enjoyment in the future."<sup>13</sup>

Baseball has always had an important part in Winthrop's history. Back in 1885:

"Baseball is all the rage now. Four organized nines in our little town . . . have baseball clubs that will lick their weight in wild cats and play any club west of Chicago for fun or money."<sup>14</sup>

The rivalry between neighboring towns can be seen from the following account of games with Aurora during the 1902 season:

"At last one fateful day, and by some mischance, Winthrop went down to defeat, 12-9, to an aggregation which swooped down from the north and the Aurora sports went wild. They raved, they howled, and gnashed their teeth in the exuberance of their joy . . . However, at a later date the largest crowd that ever left Winthrop at one time to witness a ball game went to Aurora to see our boys win 4-3 . . . Whose scalps dangle from the scalp-pole now? Whose bitter tears of disappointment were falling? Whose pocket books were punctured?"<sup>15</sup>

Baseball was played on week days, during this time.

---

10. *Conservative*, June 19, 1879.

11. *The Winthrop News*, Aug. 1, 1907.

12. *Journal*, Aug. 8, 1887.

13. *The Winthrop News*, Dec. 21, 1905, and Aug. 17, 1905.

14. *Conservative*, July 2, 1885.

15. *Review*, June 19, 1902.



*D. Dances and Bands*

Dancing was always popular. In 1877, a bowery dance was held at the 4th of July celebration, and advance notice of a New Year's Eve dance said:

"A grand ball to be given at the hall . . . and we presume the beauty and elite of the surrounding country will be present."<sup>16</sup>

And occasionally such situations as this arose when a dancer

" . . . took one of the musicians by the heels and drew him around the hall upon the bosom of his breeches, and breaking his violin in a thousand pieces."<sup>17</sup>

There were dancing clubs,<sup>18</sup> and barn dances too.<sup>19</sup>

Playing in the band occupied the time of many. Mention is made of a band playing at a celebration in 1873.<sup>20</sup> The Cornet Band was organized in 1882.<sup>21</sup> The Clipper Band organized in 1892, and they were soon the possessors of a

" . . . very fine gasoline torch . . . it has two burners and the boys say they are in it for light in the future."<sup>22</sup>

The band often gave concerts on the streets and were invited to neighboring towns. In 1896, the Clipper Band became the Crescent Band and ladies were included.<sup>23</sup>

*E. Picnics and "Outings"*

The Harvest Home Picnic apparently started in 1895,<sup>24</sup> and became the big annual event for Winthrop and the surrounding territory for many years to come. At the picnic held in 1919, one of the main attractions was an aeroplane, with the pilot giving rides for \$20 a ride.<sup>25</sup>

Picnic spots often included the "Rocks",<sup>26</sup> (Backbone State Park) or Cedar Rock on the "Wapsie."<sup>27</sup> Trips to the Rocks were often "outings," and several families would go and camp for a few days. There would also be campers from surrounding towns, as Hazelton, Independence, Masonville, and Manchester.<sup>28</sup>

16. Bulletin, July 6, 1877, and Dec. 17, 1877.

17. Ibid., March 25, 1881.

18. Ibid., Jan. 21, 1881.

19. Review, July 12, 1894.

20. Bulletin, July 28, 1873.

21. Journal, Oct. 9, 1882.

22. Winthrop Times, May 25, and Nov. 2, 1892.

23. Review, May 4, 1893, and July 9, 1896.

24. Ibid., Sept. 12, 1895.

25. The Winthrop News, Aug. 28, 1919.

26. Journal, Aug. 30, 1888.

27. Review, Aug. 3, 1893.

28. Ibid., Aug. 21, 1895.

The above section has dealt with the earlier social activities and many small groups or clubs have come and gone—Art Club, Civic Club, which was formed in 1906 and taken over by the Literary in 1922, Thimble Bees, Embroidery Club, the Eight Cousins, Dramatic Club, and others. Today we still have many small social groups—sewing clubs, various “500” and Bridge clubs, and a Do-it-yourself club. The oldest of such groups in existence today are the E.O.F., reorganized October 1920, formerly being the Mother’s Club which was formed in 1898 or ’99, and the Jolly Aces, organized in 1931.

### *F. Organized Groups*

Some of the organizations and lodges that are no longer in existence are: The Ancient Order of United Workmen, organized April 5, 1876<sup>29</sup> Good Templar’s Lodge, organized February 1886,<sup>30</sup> Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.), organized January 20, 1892;<sup>31</sup> Mystic Toilers Lodge; Columbian Circle Lodge; Modern Woodmen; Buffalo Camp No. 434;<sup>32</sup> and the Commercial Club, organized September 25, 1915 and just recently disbanded.<sup>33</sup>

There have been Boy Scout groups<sup>34</sup> over the years, and Camp-fire Girls.<sup>35</sup> At the present the youth groups consist of 4-H<sup>36</sup> and Junior Deputies,<sup>37</sup> and various church and school organizations.

### *G. The Masonic Lodge*

Shiloh Lodge No. 247, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized in Winthrop on June 2, 1869, with sixteen charter members. In 1883, the Lodge disbanded, and until 1895 the town was without a Masonic Lodge.<sup>38</sup>

Byron Lodge No. 547, A.F. and A.M., was organized in 1895, and received its charter December 21. It shows G. B. Thompson, Franklin Fox, and M. L. Hollister as officers, and “twelve others.” Records indicate the other twelve charter members were: O. J. Metcalf, Albert Knowles, W. H. Beatey, C. A. Spangler, Frederick Ebersole, Samuel Potter, C. W. Scoville, I. D. Owen, Charles Scofield, Joseph Riseley, Henry Griswold, and Fred Norman.

29. Percival and Percival, op. cit., p. 371.

30. Bulletin, Feb. 11, 1886.

31. Winthrop Times, Jan. 20, 1892.

32. Review, Dec. 1, 1904.

33. The Winthrop News, Oct. 1, 1915, and Aug. 8, 1946.

34. Ibid., May 18, 1911, July 19, 1917, May 19, 1921, and Feb. 24, 1944.

35. Ibid., Jan. 14, 1915.

36. Ibid., Jan. 31, 1957.

37. Ibid., Nov. 17, 1955.

38. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 233.

They have had many locations over the years, and were burned out in 1878 and again in 1907.

The following is an account of the 1878 fire:

"The two orders, Masons and Workmen whose home vanished in fire and smoke, have since been on wheels. The Workmen did not lose their regalia but the Masons did, but were insured. Urchins of inquiring minds searched for the remains of the historical goat among the ashes of the Lodge building, but nary a bone was there."<sup>39</sup>

Since 1922 they have had a modern home located over the bank. Lodge meetings are held the first Thursday of the month.<sup>40</sup>

Fifty year members of the Masonic Lodge to date are: C. H. Arnold, Frank Wetmur, Joseph H. Riseley, Wm. E. Griswold, Louis Thompson, and H. A. Housholder.<sup>41</sup>

#### *H. The Order of the Eastern Star*

Mrs. Arley Merrill has in her possession an Eastern Star receipt made out to her grandmother, Mary E. Griswold, on August 14, 1873, showing her to be a member of the Cross and Crown Chapter No. 16, Order of the Eastern Star, Winthrop, Iowa.<sup>42</sup>

The only further information concerning this early chapter was secured from a letter from the Grand Chapter which states:

"The only records I have show that the Chapter known as the Cross and Crown No. 16 was disbanded in 1880."<sup>43</sup>

Winthrop Chapter No. 247, Order of the Eastern Star was organized in February 1899, and received its Charter from the Grand Chapter October 26, 1899. There were 25 charter members: Isabella Metcalf, Frank Fox, Pearl Thompson, Maria J. Griswold, Nellie Spangler, Lizzie Miller, Ida E. Higman, Della Baity, Nettie Fox, Flora Kirkpatrick, Mary Shine, Edith Gaylord, Laura Fernald, Abbie Potter, Idell Goodrich, Nettie Tisdell, Alma Ferrin,, Alma Riseley, Mamie Stoneman, O. J. Metcalf, Myrtie Bloom, G. B. Thompson, Lillie Norman, Jessie Hazelrigg, and Minnie Bucher.

Fifty year members of the chapter to date are: Myrtie Bloom, Lizzie Miller, and Arley Merrill.

39. Bulletin, Jan. 18, 1878.

40. Masonic records, Byron Merrill, secretary.

41. The Winthrop News, Jan. 3, 1957.

42. Interview with Mrs. Arley Merrill, Jan. 30, 1957.

43. Letter from Mrs. Gladys Haycock, grand secretary, Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 14, 1957.



Chapter meetings are held the second Friday of the month, in the Masonic temple.<sup>44</sup> There is also a Past Matron's Club which meets every other month.

### *I. The Odd Fellows*

Winthrop Lodge No. 550, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized February 13, 1901, with a membership of forty-two. Nine of these were members, but thirty-three were new in the order.<sup>45</sup>

Construction began on an Odd Fellows hall in 1907:

"The first 'nigger head' rolled into place, May 2 in the basement wall of the new I.O.O.F. Hall. Lewis Meister wielded the trowel, plumb, level, and square, and Wesley Record furnished the mortar and kindly suggestions. A crowd stood on the side walk and helped Wesley. In January the Odd Fellows purchased the blue sky above the H. C. Unbehaun hardware store and the building and land adjoining. This wooden building was moved out, and will be replaced with brick, the upper story will be extended over the Unbehaun building making a room of 40x60 feet to be used for lodge purposes."<sup>46</sup>

The Odd Fellows and Rebekahs formally opened their hall, January 22, 1908, with a banquet and speeches.<sup>47</sup>

### *J. The Rebekahs*

A lodge of the Daughters of Rebekah was instituted on December 9, 1901, with a membership of 60, and was known as Winthrop Lodge No. 522<sup>48</sup>, but this lodge later consolidated with Lilium Rebekah Lodge No. 25, of Independence on Oct. 17, 1930.

The Helen Rebekah Lodge No. 203 was organized on March 23, 1941, with 23 charter members: Lucy Jackson, George C. Wilson, Genevieve Wilson, Curtis Williams, Esther Williams, Agnes Conrad, Henry Bateman, Leora Bateman, William H. Stutson, Ruth Hamilton, Lena Jones, Corrine Sherren, Harry Hocken, Etta Hocken, Christine Nielson, Cliff Bentley, Anna Bentley, Elizabeth Hekel, Kathryn Nielsen, Joe Jackson, Ed Nielsen, Mary Prenosil, and Mary Hamilton.<sup>49</sup>

There is a Past Noble Grand Club which meets once a month.

44. Eastern Star records, Mrs. Kenneth Braden, secretary.

45. Review, Feb. 14, 1901.

46. The Winthrop News, May 2, 1907.

47. Ibid., Jan. 23, 1908.

48. Review, Dec. 12, 1901.

49. Information secured from Mrs. Frances Cooksley, secretary.

### *K. The Royal Neighbors*

The Royal Neighbors of America was founded in 1888, and the Winthrop group, Camp No. 420, received its charter on June 20, 1896.

Charter members were: Pearl E. Thompson, Dora J. Hovey, Mrs. E. A. McFarland, Mrs. M. I. Goodrich, Susan Moore, Kate E. Boynton, Jeanette Fox, Susie Merrill, Flo Kirkpatrick, Ida E. Higman, Bessie Brintnall, Minnie Bucher, Flora J. Thompson, Rebecca Hardy, Martha Yaw, Nellie White, Mrs. A. Peterson, Lizzie Miller, Mary E. Utterback, Mrs. T. M. Sells, Della Baitey, Margaret Kirkpatrick, Ella M. Schweitzer, Elmer Brintnall, Walter Thompson, G. B. Thompson, H. C. Unberhaun, Esther Unberhaun, M. L. Hollister, Lina Hollister, W. P. Moore, W. H. Baitey, Len Sells, C. W. Bucher, J. B. Merrill, D. W. Hovey, A. J. Hopf, W. T. Thornburg, Mrs. W. Thornburg, Louisa Ebersole, Frank Yaw, M. White, Jno. Hardy, Fred Schweitzer, Geo. Thom, Lillie Norman, Mrs. F. Hunter, Mrs. F. Grossbeck, Emma Hood, Jas. Hood, Fred Ebersole, Will Kirkpatrick, Thos. Utterback, Nellie Spangler, and Geo. F. Spangler.<sup>50</sup>

### *L. The King's Daughters*

The Crusader's Circle of King's Daughters was organized in April 1931, with the following charter members: Agnes Conrad, Alta Williams, Thelma Brown, Leora Bateman, Alice Gissel, Mildred Hinds, Nellie Foster, Beulah Conner, Elsie Smith, Ellen Taylor, and Frances Ball.

The present membership is 20, and the circle meets the last Wednesday afternoon of the month.<sup>51</sup>

### *M. The Woman's Literary Club*

The Woman's Literary Club was organized in November 1907, with twelve charter members: Anna Barney, Hattie Brintnall, Mary Brintnall, Rebecca Bucher, Francis Hildreth, Eliza Kerr, Alice Ramsey, Kate Reidy, Nell Spangler, Pearl Thompson, Caroline Titus, and Madeline Whitney.

The object was both literary and social. It became a federated club in the year 1908. In 1920 the by-laws were amended to allow a membership of twenty, and again in November 1948, raising the number to twenty-five.

---

50. Information secured from Mrs. Edna Hawkins, secretary.

51. Information from Mrs. Maurice Conrad, charter member.

Contributions of both time and money by members of the club have been made to many worthwhile causes.

One hundred ladies have belonged over the years. The club's fiftieth anniversary was celebrated this year, 1957.<sup>52</sup>

#### *N. The Garden Club*

A Garden Club was organized March 20, 1934, with twenty charter members: Vera Bateman, Maude Pierce, Celena Stoneman, Minnie Campbell, Lula Collins, Anna Byrnes, Kate Hearn, Lillie Fernald, Leora Bateman, Dorothy Braden, Sadie McFadden, Edna Wenholz, Agnes Conrad, Margaret Bloom, Leola Hobson, Vera Hunt, Nell Shine, Mrs. K. Capper, Marge Antrim, and May Kimball.

They first chose the name Booster Garden Club, but shortened it to the Garden Club within the year. The Petunia was chosen as the town flower. The first flower show was held August 24, 1937, and has been held every year since, with the exception of 1947.<sup>53</sup>

#### *O. The Lions Club*

The Winthrop Lions Club, sponsored by the Manchester Lions Club, was organized October 11, 1955.<sup>54</sup> Upon receiving its charter from the International Association of Lions Clubs, the local club held its Charter night December 15. There were 27 charter members: George E. Brubaker, Keith Conrad, M. F. Cooney Jr., M. F. Cheever, Ronald Decker, Gordon Donlea, William Fangman, L. C. Fawcett, L. S. Fawcett, Kenneth Freeman, Nelson Halford, I. L. Hand, K. B. Harrington, Kenneth K. Jones, Harry Malmgren, Byron Merrill, Dr. A. J. Murphy, Robert Ownby, Leonard Peterson, Edward Singer, Allan Sloan, Beryl Smith, R. E. Thomas, Clayton Welch, A. M. Wenholz, E. L. Wenholz, and H. D. Wilcox.<sup>55</sup>

#### *P. The Library Association*

It seems logical to assume an association was organized in 1875, because of the following item from an 1886 newspaper:

"The Winthrop Library Association existed 11 years, and now has fifty books, kept in the bank."<sup>56</sup>

The traveling library, furnished free by the State, began to be used by the Winthrop people in 1897.<sup>57</sup> Apparently they made good

52. Woman's Literary Club records, Mrs. Leta Marshall, secretary.

53. Garden Club records, Mrs. Albert DeGrief, secretary.

54. The Winthrop News, Oct. 13, 1955.

55. Charter night program in possession of Beryl Smith.

56. Bulletin, April 8, 1886.

57. Review, March 25, 1897.



use of it, as frequent mention was made of a new supply of books arriving.<sup>58</sup>

In 1921, the Woman's Literary Club secured the help of Supt. C. S. Holland in starting a public library. The school library association helped in the collection of books and by December four hundred volumes had been secured, with more coming.<sup>59</sup>

The E.O.F. Club worked with the Woman's Literary Club taking turns working in the library. While the council had levied a tax in 1926, for the support of a free library,<sup>60</sup> this was not adequate, and bake sales and parties were held to raise money for books, rent, and fuel.<sup>61</sup>

In 1955, the town built a new library and maintenance building, and at last they are on solid ground, after being moved about from place to place.

The library board consists of six people, appointed by the mayor, including two from the Town Council.<sup>62</sup>

### *Q The Cemetery Association*

On November 4, 1900, a plat of three acres of land was filed in the Recorder's office in Independence, to be known as the Fairview Cemetery.<sup>63</sup> This land located outside the southwest corner of the original town plat was purchased for \$150 an acre.<sup>64</sup>

The Winthrop Cemetery Association was formed January 5, 1901, with the following officers: President, B. DuBois; vice president, A. W. Perkins; secretary, H. C. Unbehaun; treasurer, A. J. Foster; trustees, W. H. Plank, T. W. Bucher, and Frank Fox.

A Ladies Cemetery Association was formed the same year on May 25th. Officers elected were as follows: President, Mrs. D. W. Hovey; vice president, Mrs. T. W. Bucher; secretary, Mrs. W. P. Moore; treasurer, Mrs. W. C. Boynton. Soliciting committee appointed to solicit members were: Mrs. D. W. Hovey, Mrs. Frank Fox, H. C. Unbehaun, Mrs. Frank Auton, and Mrs. George DuBois.<sup>65</sup>

---

58. The Winthrop News, July 22, 1909, and May 22, 1913.

59. Ibid., Oct. 27, 1921.

60. Ibid., March 11, 1926.

61. Ibid., Feb. 1, 1923.

62. Town records.

63. Plat Book I, p. 12.

64. Records of Cemetery Association, Miss Gail Griswold, secretary.

65. Review, Jan. 10, 1901, and May 30, 1901.

The ladies immediately embarked on a campaign to raise money to improve the new cemetery, the first of which was a supper at which they realized \$40.<sup>66</sup>

Problems arose, such as:

"There should be a row of hitching posts at the cemetery. As it is, great inconvenience at times is experienced."<sup>67</sup>

"... annual meeting ... another thing brought up and acted upon was the cutting or trimming of the row of evergreen trees surrounding the yard. From time to time different ones have drawn upon these trees for decorations ... They should be protected and respected and it is hoped no one again will molest them in any manner."<sup>68</sup>

### R. *The Civil War*

Early records do not list those from Winthrop going to the Civil War (1861-1865), but it is doubtful if there were more than a few, since the town was just being established. However, many who had been in the war later made Winthrop their home, and twenty-three are buried in Fairview cemetery.<sup>69</sup>

The "men who wore blue" of Buchanan County held reunions or "encampments." Of one held in Winthrop, September 9-10, 1891, it was said:

"The soldiers reunion passed off pleasantly, with about 140 in attendance. A grand display of fireworks surrounded them on all sides as the soldiers marched to the Baptist Church. It was a reminder of the fire they passed through many years ago."<sup>70</sup>

A Post of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) was organized January 13, 1892, in the vestry of the Congregational church. An invitation was extended:

"All old soldiers are respectfully invited to join us. It will not be long before we will all be mustered out here, and mustered into that Grand Army above."<sup>71</sup>

An auxiliary of the G.A.R., the Women's Relief Corps, was organized January 11, 1894, by a group of enthusiastic ladies, with a mem-

66. Ibid., June 20, 1901.

67. The Winthrop News, May 17, 1906.

68. Ibid., Jan. 16, 1908.

69. See Table VII for a list of the Civil War soldiers buried in Fairview Cemetery.

70. Bulletin-Journal, Sept. 17, 1891.

71. Winthrop Times, Jan. 20, 1892.

bership of 28.<sup>72</sup> This group was still in existence in 1926, celebrating their 32nd anniversary in January of that year.<sup>73</sup>

The Soldiers Monument that stands in Fairview Cemetery is a result of the combined efforts of the G.A.R. and the W.R.C., who raised \$400 for its erection.<sup>74</sup> The lot was donated by the Cemetery Association on Oct. 15, 1903.<sup>75</sup> The monument is about sixteen feet high. The stack of three army muskets is seven feet and four inches in height, and the granite obelisk is five feet and eight inches square with parking and cement curbing. It was dedicated Decoration Day, May 30, 1904, in memory of the dead soldiers of our country.<sup>76</sup>

### *S. The Spanish-American War*

Bert Slaughter is the only one listed from Winthrop as going to the Spanish-American War (1898). He was classified as a Musician, in Company E of the Forty-ninth Iowa Volunteers.<sup>77</sup>

### *T. World War I*

The United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917. About half of the 1917-18 senior class were among the boys going from Winthrop.<sup>78</sup> When peace was declared November 11, 1918, school was dismissed at 1 p.m. and the town celebrated by

“ . . . bells ringing, shot guns firing, flags flying, tears and laughter intermingled with hearty cheers. There were impromptu parades and the band played . . . ”<sup>79</sup>

Intermingled with this gladness was the news received by Mr. and Mrs. George Shafer on the previous Saturday evening that their son, Albert G., had died in France on October 11.<sup>80</sup>

Then on November 24, Donald McFarland, age 19, a student in the Army Training Corps at Grinnell College died from influenza. An article at this time said:

“He was interested in all the activities of the war and early expressed the desire to go, saying ‘What is one life compared to so great a cause!’ ”<sup>81</sup>

He was the only World War I casualty from the town of Winthrop.

72. Review, Jan. 11, 1894.

73. The Winthrop News, Jan. 21, 1926.

74. Review, June 2, 1904.

75. Cemetery Association records, Miss Gail Griswold, secretary.

76. Review, June 2, 1904.

77. Chappell and Chappell, op. cit., p. 199.

78. The Winthrop News, May 30, 1918. See Table VIII for a list of World War I servicemen.

79. Ibid., Nov. 14, 1918.

80. Loc. cit.

81. The Winthrop News, Nov. 28, 1918.



A flag staff 60 feet in height was put into position just west of the Winthrop State Bank (now the Post Office) on May 17, 1917, shortly after the U.S. entered the War.<sup>82</sup> A flag is still flown from this staff.

#### *U. The American Legion*

The Schafer-McFarland Post No. 560 of the American Legion received its charter, March 17, 1921. There were fifteen charter members: H. A. Housholder, Geo. B. Postel, Leland M. Sheeley, I. L. Hand, J. H. Love, Myrl Reed, George E. Brubaker, Wayne T. Brubaker, Lee Griswold, J. F. Kinney, George Curry, Edgar Reed, John F. Diggins, John R. Postel, and Ronald McFarland.<sup>83</sup>

At the June 13, 1946, meeting of the Legion, a final decision was reached to rename the post and it became the Dunlap-Griswold-Shafer-McFarland Post No. 560.<sup>84</sup>

The Post purchased a schoolhouse in 1948, and had it moved onto property acquired west of the Housholder building. The remodeling was done by the men of the Post:

"When is a schoolhouse not a schoolhouse? When it is seized by a group of ex-fighting men and converted by them into a serviceable functional place to gather.

When the sun goes down and the lights come on, it is then the hammers begin to pound and the saws to sing. For only after his day's work is over can the Legion man find time to make a little more progress in his building program . . ."<sup>85</sup>

Commanders of the Post have been: H. A. Housholder, Wayne Meffert, B. K. McFarland, J. H. Love, G. C. Murphy, I. L. Hand, W. F. Sharp, N. E. Malmgren, George F. Gates, F. M. Ball, K. G. Freeman, O. A. Rich, L. S. Fawcett, H. E. Malmgren, E. L. Wenholz, Virgil Bateman, E. J. Goff, Byron Merrill, K. K. Jones, Ed Singer, Glenn Griswold, and Carroll Brockmeyer.<sup>86</sup>

#### *V. The American Legion Auxiliary*

An Auxiliary to the American Legion was organized January 25, 1924, with 29 charter members: Chloe Hand, Evelyn Griswold, Lela Housholder, Marie Kinney, Maude Love, Frances Ball, Mable Brown, Bessie Slaughter, Dena McFarland, Bernice McFarland, Ruth Singer, Florence Hogan, Bertha Brubaker, Margaret Bloom,

82. *Ibid.*, May 17, 1917.

83. Charter at the American Legion Hall.

84. *The Winthrop News*, June 20, 1946.

85. *Ibid.*, Sept. 23, 1948, and Dec. 2, 1948.

86. Legion charter in American Legion Hall.

Genevieve Murphy, Zoe Ownby, Avada Jensen, Ona Meffert, Neva Brubaker, Marjorie Ryan, Flora Ball, Ila Mae Talley, Neva Reed, Anna Allyn, Margaret Parker, Jennie Parker, Lottie Gaffney, Berle Reed, and May E. Ryan.<sup>87</sup>

### *W. World War II*

There were three casualties from Winthrop in World War II which began December 7, 1941 and ended August 14, 1945.

Cpl. T/5 Gerald Griswold was killed in action in France, June 10, 1944.<sup>88</sup>

Technician (4/g) Gerald H. Dunlap died July 9, 1942, as a result of malaria and beri-beri at Orant, Bataan, Philippine Islands, while evading capture by the Japanese. Word of his death was not received by his parents until May of 1945.<sup>89</sup>

S/Sgt. Glenn Donlea was killed in action on March 19, 1945 and buried at sea.<sup>90</sup>

### *X. The Korean War*

The U. S. ground forces entered the conflict in Korea on June 30, 1950. Cease fire day was July 27, 1953. Sgt. Ronald Rich who had also served in World War II, was killed in action, on September 20, 1950.<sup>91</sup>

As long as there has been man, there has always been a need for association with others, whether it be between families, neighborhood groups, social clubs, or organized groups. This chapter has been a brief story of some of these group associations.

How these people communicated and the different methods of transportation will be discussed in the following chapter.

---

87. Auxiliary charter at Legion Hall.

88. The Winthrop News, July 27, 1944. See Table IX for a list of World War II servicemen.

89. Ibid., May 17, 1945.

90. Ibid., May 24, 1945.

91. Ibid., Oct. 12, 1950.

# Transportation and Communication

## A. *The I.C.R.R.*

The first steam engine came "chugging around the bend" to enter the County on December 12, 1859. Winthrop was first established as a station of the Dubuque and Pacific Railroad.<sup>1</sup> On August 13, 1860, the railroad was re-organized and became the Dubuque & Sioux City Railroad. On September 13, 1867, it was leased to the Illinois Central Railroad, but retained its corporate identity. On October 1, 1887, the railroad became a part of the Illinois Central system.<sup>2</sup>

Weather conditions often prevented the train from traveling. The cuts were drifted full in 1861, and it took

" . . . ten days to get from Dubuque to Jesup, and at one time alone there were 90 men at work between Jesup and Manchester, and to date the tracks have been cleared five times."<sup>3</sup>

The railroad was used often for trips and excursions. In 1862, an item appeared in the papers extending to all of the scholars and teachers of the Sunday and day schools along the route between Cedar Falls and Manchester, a free excursion to the latter place:

"It was a miserable rainy day but when the train left Independence, there were 1,500 aboard, and this number of course considerably increased by the time they reached their destination."<sup>4</sup>

The railroad carried all animals and articles free of charge to the State Fair, which was then held at Dubuque. The first passenger trains each way were put on in the fall of 1863.<sup>5</sup>

The railroad advertised the following trips: A round trip ticket to Minneapolis for \$6.20 in 1891,<sup>6</sup> an excursion to Dubuque for a ballgame at \$1 a round trip,<sup>7</sup> in 1899, 180 tickets were sold for a morning excursion to Dubuque,<sup>8</sup> in 1910, about 100 people attended the Ringling Bros. Circus in Waterloo, "84 of them went by train, the rest made the trip by auto."<sup>9</sup>

1. Bulletin, August 22, 1865. For a list of station agents see Table X.

2. I.C.R.R. records, from John Corson, Sept. 6, 1956.

3. Civilian, Feb. 28, 1861.

4. Chappell & Chappell, op. cit., p. 304.

5. Loc. cit.

6. Winthrop Times, May 18, 1891.

7. Review, Aug. 16, 1894.

8. Ibid., June 22, 1899.

9. The Winthrop News, July 21, 1910.



The depot has been completely destroyed by fire twice, and damaged at other times throughout the years. In 1863, the depot was "moved some distance and considerably damaged by a violent tornado."<sup>10</sup> It was destroyed by fire in 1870:

"About 1 o'clock last Monday morning a short time after the eastward bound train had passed, the depot at Winthrop was discovered to be on fire. Alarm was immediately given, but it was impossible to save the building. Owing to embargo for the last week on freight, caused by high water at Dubuque, there was but few goods in the depot and hence the loss is not so great as it would have been otherwise. Books in the office and valuables in the safe were saved. The building was not of much value and quite inadequate for the business."<sup>11</sup>

In July 1870 work began on erecting a new depot. The fire was suspected as the work of an incendiary.<sup>12</sup>

A warning to young boys who hung around the railroad was printed in the paper in 1872, after the son of a saloon keeper

"... made an attempt to climb on the cars, but missed his hold and fell off under the wheels. Both legs were cut off and he lived but two hours after the occurrence."<sup>13</sup>

In 1911, an eleven year old boy was run over and almost instantly killed at the I. C. yard.<sup>14</sup>

The iron safe at the depot was blown open in 1885, by unknown parties who entered by breaking the window and raising it:

"A one half inch hole was drilled in the door below the lock and the door forced open. Only \$4 or \$5 in change in the safe. Station agent, Norman regrets most the loss of a box of fine Havana cigars. Tools were taken from the blacksmith shop. Burglars crawled between iron bars there."<sup>15</sup>

The depot came near to burning in 1886:

"Henry Ferguson who sleeps in the depot, was aroused about 1 o'clock by a dense smoke, and going out into the waiting room found a blaze from the floor reaching up some three feet high. It was probably set on fire by some cigar stub or by coal puffing out from the stove."<sup>16</sup>

---

10. Civilian, July 13, 1863.

11. Bulletin, March 4, 1870.

12. Ibid., July 1, 1870.

13. Ibid., Sept. 27, 1872.

14. The Winthrop News, Dec. 14, 1911.

15. Conservative, July 9, 1885.

16. Bulletin, Jan. 28, 1886.

In 1890, the building was burned for the second time, and a new depot was completed in August of that same year:

"Henry Griswold's elevator caught fire from sparks thrown from the 4 a.m. train. It was discovered at 5 o'clock; the fire was well under way; and it burned to the ground. The I.C. depot was next to succumb to the fire. Had it not been for the bravery of both men and women it would not have been subdued then."<sup>17</sup>

By 1892, the I.C. schedule listed seven trains going east, and seven west, every day. Three of each were passenger, three freight, and one express freight.<sup>18</sup> A semaphore signal had arrived and was

"... a queer looking contrivance ... the boys think that the only good that will come from them is to assist in chopping off operators heads, metaphorically speaking."<sup>19</sup>

Also, two more engines were placed on this division:

"They are the mogul style and are the largest we have ever seen, They have eight drive wheels, with 100 tons and are able to pull 500 tons. They are pretty as well as large and the engineers that handle the levers should be proud of them."<sup>20</sup>

The pay car was always a welcome sight. It never failed to make its appearance just before Christmas, thereby "gladdening the hearts of the employees."<sup>21</sup> In 1896 the pay car was no longer used, as the employees were then paid by check.<sup>22</sup>

Fines were collected from the railroad for violating an ordinance limiting the speed of the trains through town:

"The engineers of the two afternoon passenger trains, that are fast trains and not scheduled to stop at Winthrop were fined \$10 each for exceeding the speed limit of six miles an hour through town. The truth is, the railroad crossings in this city are dangerous places, at best, and doubly so when trains pass at a speed of 60 miles an hour."<sup>23</sup>

John Callan, who retired from 44 years I.C. service in 1937, helped take up the 56 pound rail that was the standard when he started and relaid the district with 90 pound rails (the average weight now is

---

17. Ibid., May 1, 1890, and Aug. 14, 1890.

18. Winthrop Times, April 27, 1892.

19. Ibid., Feb. 24, 1892.

20. Ibid., July 13, 1892.

21. Review, Dec. 28, 1893.

22. Ibid., May 28, 1896.

23. Ibid., Dec. 10, 1903.

112-115 pounds).<sup>24</sup> Mr. Callan has had the responsibility for the "safe passage of two trains bearing U. S. presidents, Wm. McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt."<sup>25</sup>

An electric warning bell was installed at the east railway crossing in 1922.<sup>26</sup> Red flasher signals were installed on each side of the crossing in 1940.<sup>27</sup> In 1942 a smaller and more convenient depot was built.<sup>28</sup>

In 1944, a locomotive, tender, and two cars of a westbound freight were derailed east of the depot, after "jack-knifing."<sup>29</sup> A westbound train with 15 cars was derailed again in 1949. The wreck occurred when a drawbar fell out on a car of coal. One car "demolished the coal shed and only missed the depot by about 15 feet."<sup>30</sup>

Passenger train service has since been discontinued and diesels have replaced the old engines.

### *B. Horses and Oxen*

One hundred years ago oxen and horses furnished the transportation. In 1861, a Byron township assessor's evaluation was \$45 for an oxen and \$50 for a horse.<sup>31</sup> In 1872, an epidemic, called "epizootic", hit all the horses in the County, and oxen were used in their place.<sup>32</sup>

In the 1880s, it was a daily occurrence to see

" . . . long trains of prairie schooners filing through from west to east, bearing families who had tried an experience in the great west, and were disconsolately turning their faces back to their old homes."<sup>33</sup>

Frightened or run-a-way teams caused many accidents. One lady was thrown from "a cutter to the frozen ground."<sup>34</sup> The "spirited colts" of one man broke the pole of his buggy and threw him to the ground, breaking his hip.<sup>35</sup> Two ladies, driving home from Independence, had their team frightened by the sleds of small boys coasting; the ladies were thrown out, and while they were not hurt, "one

---

24. Information from John Hunter, I. C. section foreman.

25. The Winthrop News, Sept. 9, 1937.

26. Ibid., Feb. 22, 1922.

27. Ibid., May 23, 1940.

28. Ibid., Oct. 15, 1942.

29. Ibid., Aug. 3, 1944.

30. Ibid., Sept. 1, 1949.

31. Civilian, Feb. 28, 1861.

32. Bulletin, Nov. 22, 1872.

33. Ibid., June 4, 1880.

34. Ibid., Jan. 29, 1875.

35. Ibid., Dec. 15, 1876.





#### PLANK BROTHER'S CREAMERY

Same location as present creamery. Taken about 1900. Left to right—Ben Cherry; Tom Cone with mules; Will Whitney; Winthrop children on Mr. Whitney's wagon, two of whom are Enos and Percy Plank; Jim Marling standing on wagon; Mrs. Henry Plank; Mrs. John Plank; Henry Plank, next to ladies; child, Virga, daughter of Henry Plank. On platform, Frank Plank; John Plank; child, Emerson Plank, son of John. Other drivers on wagons, Walter Jones, David McLaren, and Rufus Jones.



#### SEEING THEM OFF

Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Norman and family leaving for California, October 1908. Children in front, Imogene Taylor, Burnita Norman, Genevieve Taylor, Fred John Pierce. Group in back, left to right—Gladys Higman, Hazel Wilson, Donna Miller, Leta Norman, Ethel Bissel, Ida Heath, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Maud Pierce, Mrs. Minnie Bucher, Mrs. Fred Collins, Mrs. Jennie Norman, Mrs. Becky Bucher, Mrs. Lillie Norman, Mrs. Mae Braden, Mrs. Arthur Smith (blurred), Mrs. Hannah Norman, Art Griswold, Mrs. Ida Higman, Joe Jackson, Sam Smith, W. B. Halleck, Frank Fox, Thomas Thompson, L. N. Norman, Frank Wetmur, E. W. Gaylord, Rich Braden, Dr. Taylor, T. W. Bucher, Hank Unbehaun, Harry Higman. Lee Griswold, boy. Judge, the dog.





DEPOT IN 1890

Note cart to carry baggage to hotel



ONE OF THE FIRST AUTOS

Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Smith in their Reo. Ellis Washburn and daughter in back seat. Taken in 1909.





POST OFFICE, 1905

Left to right, Mr. McDonald, Star Route between Winthrop and Quasqueton; Harry Higman, postmaster; carriers, Marcus Dunlap with car; R. C. Scoville, C. W. Bucher, J. L. Gaylord.

of the horses was badly bruised, perhaps fatally."<sup>36</sup> Teams were frightened by the trains, and in one instance

" . . . motions of brooms in hand checked their speed. Other *animals* besides horses have been brought to a stand with a broom."<sup>37</sup>

There was agitation in 1896 to have the City Council prohibit the use of streets for the "breaking-in of young horses." Several small children had had narrow escapes from this source of danger.<sup>38</sup>

And of course there are always the "fast drivers." One driver, going from "Winthrop to the Burlington depot in Independence and back, a distance of eight miles, made it in about three hours," in the year 1883.<sup>39</sup>

Sometimes a practical joke is a practical joke, as:

"Last Wednesday afternoon some individuals . . . sought to relieve the monotony of the pouring rain and dispel the prevailing inertia of men and animals generally, by exploding a large fire-cracker in front of Griswold's store. The experiment succeeded admirably. Everybody ran to the windows and doors to see what had happened. A dog ran up one street frightened almost to death, while Perry Lake's team went up another at break-neck speed scattering tubs of butter in their wake."<sup>40</sup>

Or sometimes it backfires:

"A couple of our young men thought they would have some fun cutting off the tail of a horse in Frank Diggins' livery stable, belonging to a man engaged in picking up old iron in this locality. It took \$5 to settle the matter, which the boys may consider a very liberal settlement as in most instances it would have been a higher priced job."<sup>41</sup>

The horse was literally "a beast of burden" and abused when:

"Three howling drunken demons in human form dashed through the north part of our town, lashing their team to its utmost speed. The brutes came safely out as usual, but one of the horses a noble animal, after reaching a distance of about one mile on the Buffalo road fell dead. Such an exhibition of brutality almost induces a belief in the Darwinian theory, except one should reverse the order and put man at the bottom."<sup>42</sup>

---

36. Journal, Feb. 10, 1887.

37. Bulletin, Sept. 16, 1886.

38. Review, April 6, 1896.

39. Bulletin, March 16, 1883.

40. Winthrop Times, June 8, 1892.

41. Ibid., June 1, 1892.

42. Bulletin, Oct. 2, 1877.

In 1885, Drs. White and Shine were having driving carts made for themselves,<sup>43</sup> and five years later:

"Muncey White purchased one of those nice Racine top buggies, George Spangler and Ranford Cook ride in new B.B. carts, and Eugene Dunlap thinks the Victor road cart a dandy."<sup>44</sup>

Business was increasing rapidly and the town needed more hitching posts.<sup>45</sup>

Over 200 people congregated on the State Road one Saturday afternoon in 1893 as they waited for cowboy racers, starting from Chadron, Nebraska and going to the World's Fair in Chicago:

"... after a tiresome wait Berry the leader in the race, was seen approaching, riding one horse and leading another, both seemingly in good condition. He covered the distance between Independence and Winthrop, 8 miles, in exactly two hours. Gillespie and Rattlesnake Pete rode by at 4:15, two hours behind the leader. Gillespie's horses appeared nearly fagged, while Pete's horse, General Grant seemed as fresh as though just starting out... Jones passed through in the night and Middleton and Albright Sunday morning."<sup>46</sup>

The race continued on. Also, among the cowboy party was "Scotty", the miner from Death Valley, "who has been causing so much talk by his fast travels over the country and his reckless, lavish, and foolish expenditure of money."<sup>47</sup>

### C. "Wheels"

In the nineties the bicycle came into general use. The velocipede preceded it, and by 1893 bicycles were pronounced "excellent and durable machines and beauties as well."<sup>48</sup>

In 1895, bicycle riding promised to be quite an event the coming season and anticipating it, many of the young men were getting "wheels", and some of the young ladies were also buying them.<sup>49</sup> Various groups wheeled to Lamont, Masonville, Quasqueton, Jesup, and even Oelwein.<sup>50</sup>

In 1897, an ordinance was passed prohibiting the riding of bicycles on the sidewalks of the town.<sup>51</sup> By 1907, bicycles were still

43. Journal, Aug. 20, 1885.

44. Ibid., April 10, 1890.

45. Bulletin-Journal, Jan. 22, 1891.

46. Review, June 10, 1893.

47. Ibid., Aug. 3, 1905.

48. Ibid., Aug. 24, 1893.

49. Ibid., Feb. 14, 1895.

50. Ibid., June 20, 1893.

51. Minute book, No. 1, p. 311, (May 10, 1897).



"... putting sunshine in the lives, especially the junior members. Lee Griswold was the proud possessor of a new wheel."<sup>52</sup>

The motorcycle became popular in 1914 and some of the makes were the Harley-Davidson, Pope, and Indian.<sup>53</sup>

#### *D. The Auto*

The first mention of an automobile was in 1905 when Marcus Dunlap had one on his mail route:

"We will take back all we have said about the automobile. Why it's really more fun to ride in one than you can shake a stick at. It's just like sliding down hill, all the time, without getting off to haul the sled back up again. The reason we know is because we went with Marcus Dunlap, Monday over his R.F.D. route in his auto. The twenty one and a fraction miles, including thirty four stops, was made in less than one hour and forty minutes. It was really the most enjoyable ride we have ever had and we thank the good Marcus for it."<sup>54</sup>

At this same time Jarvis Smith purchased one in Elgin, Illinois. He brought back an "expert operator, who will stay a few days and show him how to run the machine."<sup>55</sup>

In 1909, there were eight automobiles in town and

"... the horses as well as the people are getting accustomed to them. It is certainly wonderful how little attention the horses along the public highways pay to the machines. Nine times out of ten the occupants of the vehicles are more frightened than the horses."<sup>56</sup>

There was an automobile within the city limits in 1911

"... for every fifty people of the population, 13 in all, with indications showing there would probably be 20 machines the end of the year."<sup>57</sup>

The owners were: Jarvis Smith, Cadillac and Reo; James McKay, Reo. S. T. Spangler, Overland; M. A. Dunlap, Stanley; M. L. Shine, Ford; H. C. Unbehaun, Mason; J. B. Ryan, Regal; C. G. Copeland, Brush; D. M. Love, Moline; W. B. Miller, Overland; N. J. Dennie, Overland; and L. N. Norman, Overland.<sup>58</sup>

---

52. The Winthrop News, Aug. 1, 1907.

53. Ibid., May 1, 1914.

54. Review, Aug. 25, 1905.

55. Loc. cit.

56. The Winthrop News, Aug. 19, 1909.

57. Ibid., April 20, 1911.

58. Loc. cit.

The same year every automobile in Iowa had to "carry its number both in front and behind." Under the new law the tax on autos was \$8 per year, up to 20 horsepower, and forty cents for each additional horsepower.<sup>59</sup>

The first auto garage, the Winthrop Auto Supply Co., was opened in 1911 by John Wise and C. W. Yeager. With the automobiles

" . . . which are owned in this vicinity and the transient trade there should be a good business for the proprietors of the new firm. Mr. Yeager will be in charge of the mechanical department."<sup>60</sup>

A lengthy ordinance was passed by the Town Council concerning autos. The rate of speed was to be no greater than "one mile in four minutes." Also assistance was to be rendered anyone in case of unusual danger. A motor vehicle was not to be operated without "the device known as the muffler cut out." And a horn or alarm, lights, and brakes were required.<sup>61</sup>

A "big 9 and one-half ton truck" making a cross country trip stopped in Winthrop in 1919 and caused quite a stir:

"The rear tires measured 10 by 44 and the front ones 7 by 44, being equipped with Goodyear tires. The big truck can make 40 miles an hour if necessary."<sup>62</sup>

The closed touring car was considered the latest thing in 1920:

"With each summer season the utility of the closed car is becoming more evident . . . Experience has shown that this type of car can be just as airy and cool as anyone desires . . . for touring, the closed car is now regarded as ideal. It protects occupants from the sun, dirt, and dust . . ."<sup>63</sup>

A resident who lived east of town on the Grant Highway in 1922 became curious as to the number of autos passing his place every day. During the hours from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., 254 cars passed, also 9 teams, 2 bicycles, and 2 motorcycles.<sup>64</sup>

A drivers license law went into effect in 1931. The cost of the license was 25 cents for two years.<sup>65</sup>

---

59. Ibid., April 27, 1911.

60. Ibid., June 1, 1911.

61. Ibid., May 23, 1912.

62. Ibid., July 24, 1919.

63. Ibid., July 1, 1920.

64. Ibid., June 7, 1922.

65. Ibid., July 25, 1931.

*E. U.S. No. 20*

The road bounding the south border of Winthrop has been called the State Road, Hawkeye Highway, Grant Highway and the AYP (Atlantic, Yellowstone, and Pacific). These names were community sponsored and had no legal standing.<sup>66</sup>

On April 11, 1919, the road was officially adopted as part of the inter-county or primary road system by the Highway Commission. At this time the road was under the control of both the board of supervisors of Buchanan County and the State Highway Commission. In 1920, the Commission numbered the roads and started to paint signs on telephone poles. At that time the road through Winthrop was designated as Highway No. 20.<sup>67</sup>

The paving project reached Winthrop from the west, in 1922, except for the stretch between the two railroad crossings.<sup>68</sup> Not until 1928, was paving completed east of Winthrop. The last batch of cement was poured near the Catholic church on the evening of July 17, 1928.<sup>69</sup>

In 1929, the highway went completely under the control of the State Highway Commission.<sup>70</sup>

*F. The "Aeroplane"*

An aeroplane advertising an Exposition to be held in Dubuque flew over Winthrop in 1916, and "attracted much attention."<sup>71</sup> Mention was made of an aeroplane again in 1919, and they were still rarely seen.<sup>72</sup>

In 1925, the first airplane in the County was purchased and brought to town:

"Ralph Reed sailed into town Sunday forenoon at 10:50 from Cedar Rapids with an airplane he purchased some time ago, the first in the county. It is a J. N. 4-D Curtis 'Jennie' and will carry one passenger. Leonard Carruthers of Cedar Rapids, an expert pilot, accompanied Ralph, and will remain during the summer to teach the new owner to manipulate the 'bird'."<sup>73</sup>

---

66. Letter from Iowa State Highway Commission, Ames, Iowa. John G. Butter, Chief Engineer, Jan. 22, 1957.

67. Loc. cit.

68. The Winthrop News, Nov. 30, 1922.

69. Ibid., July 19, 1928.

70. Letter from Iowa State Highway Commission, Jan. 22, 1957.

71. The Winthrop News, Sept. 14, 1916.

72. Ibid., June 26, 1919.

73. Ibid., April 30, 1925.



The first parachute jump in the County was made by Frank Rich who "jumped off into space while taking his first ride in the plane."<sup>74</sup>

G. "*The Winthrop News*"

The first attempt at starting a paper was in 1877, when a five column folio, with "patent" insides appeared. In the June 15 issue of the *Independence Bulletin*, they reported receiving

"... a copy of the new paper at Winthrop, the *People's Paper* ... The outside pages, printed at home, are not a model of the typographical art, and for a new enterprise, we expected to see a little more space if not spice, devoted to local news and general reading. We can appreciate the difficulty in starting a new paper and expect to see Bro. Vines (A.B.) improve on his initial efforts, but it would have been better to have waited until he was ready before launching the new craft."<sup>75</sup>

After four months the paper folded up, and the Winthrop correspondent for the *Independence paper* wrote:

"We are obliged to chronicle the dissolution of our organ ycleped the *People's Paper* ... To be candid in the matter we think there was no lack of reasons for failure ... Talk is cheap but all know it takes money to start a paper and those whose encouragement was requisite to success saw fit to decline."<sup>76</sup>

In 1891, the *Winthrop Times* began under the editorship of Frank Vierth. The first file of the paper in the Winthrop news office is October 28, 1891. However, it apparently started some weeks earlier, as an item, in the September 7 issue of 1893 says "The *Review* (originally the *Winthrop Times*) is two years old this week. It is a sturdy and healthy infant."<sup>77</sup>

The editor, Frank Vierth, also published papers in Jesup and Quasqueton.<sup>78</sup> The Winthrop paper was first issued from the office of the Jesup Review, and was a reprint of that paper with the exception of Winthrop locals and advertisements. Within a few months the paper had a local office.<sup>79</sup>

The first issue of the year 1893 came out under a new name, *Buchanan County Weekly Review*, with Frank Vierth still the pub-

---

74. Ibid., June 28, 1925.

75. Bulletin, June 15, 1877.

76. Ibid., Sept. 14, 1877.

77. Review, Sept. 7, 1893.

78. Conservative, Centennial Edition, Section A, Sept. 1955.

79. Bulletin-Journal, Sept. 10, 1891.

lisher.<sup>80</sup> The paper was sold to Chas. Scofield and came out under the name of *Buchanan County Review* on May 25, 1893.<sup>81</sup> For the next few years the paper changed hands frequently:

Dec. 12, 1895—Louis B. Huyck, publisher, and Carl S. Evans, editor.<sup>82</sup>

March 26, 1896—Eugene A. Dunlap, publisher.<sup>83</sup>

March 4, 1897—Bert Slaughter, editor.<sup>84</sup>

April 22, 1897—A. M. Bird & Son, publisher and editor.<sup>85</sup>

Sept. 7, 1903—Lester Ainsworth, publisher.<sup>86</sup>

Oct. 19, 1905—George B. Heath, publisher. On October 26, the paper came out for the first time under its present name, *The Winthrop News*.<sup>87</sup>

June 3, 1909—Jesse N. Gray, publisher.<sup>88</sup> He died July 21, 1932, and on August 4, 1932, the first issue under his wife, J. E. Gray was published.<sup>89</sup>

Oct. 14, 1937—K. B. Harrington became publisher and editor, after serving many years as a printer in the shop.<sup>90</sup>

Doing some advertising for itself the paper in 1892 ran the following ad:

"We have a quantity of old newspapers at this office that we will sell for 20 cents a hundred. There is nothing better or cheaper to put under carpets."<sup>91</sup>

In 1916 the folio appeared in a new style:

"The News comes to you this week in a new form. The top of the pages are cut so as to enable the readers to turn the pages without doing an acrobatic stunt. Much of the good foreign news has been missed in the past owing to the fact that the reader was obliged to unfold a yard of paper."<sup>92</sup>

Since a small town paper relies on local news for front page stories, the following crusade for news appeared often in the paper:

"If Any One Has:

80. Weekly Review, Jan. 5, 1893.

81. Review, May 25, 1893.

82. Ibid., Dec. 12, 1895.

83. Ibid., March 26, 1896.

84. Ibid., March 4, 1897.

85. Ibid., April 22, 1897.

86. Ibid., Sept. 7, 1903.

87. The Winthrop News, Oct. 26, 1905.

88. Ibid., June 3, 1909.

89. Ibid., Aug. 4, 1932.

90. Ibid., Oct. 14, 1937.

91. Winthrop Times, April 20, 1892.

92. The Winthrop News, Jan. 13, 1916.

Died  
 Eloped  
 Married  
 Divorced  
 Left town  
 Had a fire  
 Had a baby  
 Embezzled  
 Sold a farm  
 Been arrested  
 Come to town  
 Had company  
 Bought a home  
 Committed murder  
 Fallen from an aeroplane  
 That's news—Telephone The News."<sup>93</sup>

#### *H. Mail Delivery*

The first post office situated in the village and operating under the name of Winthrop began in 1861 with Abbott E. Dulton as postmaster. Prior to that it went under the name of Pine, having first been established in Liberty Township under that name in 1853. Later in 1857 it was moved to Byron Township with Lemuel J. Dunlap as postmaster, who kept the mail at his farm west of town.<sup>94</sup>

In the early days the post office was in the place of business of the postmaster. The first store keeper Mr. Dulton kept the mail at his store, and Henry Cornick kept it at his hotel. In 1881, when Willard Woodworth was postmaster the following ads showed the variety of things to be bought at the post office:

"A fine line of sample Bible and Albums for sale at the post office."<sup>95</sup>

"Christmas cards for sale at the post office."<sup>96</sup>

"The largest assortment of fine candies in town, at the post office."<sup>97</sup>

In the early days unclaimed letters were advertised in the newspaper, before being sent to the dead letter office.<sup>98</sup>

93. The Winthrop News, Aug. 27, 1916.

94. Post office records received Sept. 11, 1956. For a list of postmasters see Table XI.

95. Winthrop Times, Dec. 16, 1891.

96. Ibid., Dec. 23, 1891.

97. Loc. cit.,

98. Weekly Review, Jan. 19, 1893.



The post office was burglarized in 1911. The safe was blown open, the concussion of the explosion shattering the large front windows. About \$200 in cash was taken, part of which belonged to Postmaster Higman as dues he had collected as clerk of the Modern Woodmen Lodge and stamps to the value of around \$300, along with money orders, and books. The latter articles were found the following afternoon by John Callan's section crew along the railroad. The thieves broke into the D. M. Love blacksmith shop to secure the sledges with which they broke the combination dial into which they poured the fluid which broke the lock.<sup>99</sup>

During the time that J. B. Ryan was postmaster the post office was located where the drugstore now stands. Under Harry Higman and J. H. Risely it was a part of what is now Fawcett's Furniture Store. Under Frantz it was located where the tavern now is. In 1932, it was moved in the old Winthrop State Bank building, which is its present location.<sup>100</sup>

The rural mail delivery went into operation July 1, 1902, with four free rural delivery routes. They included: No. 1, Fremont, R. C. Scoville, carrier, length of route, 25 miles; No. 2, Byron, M. A. Dunlap, 20 miles; No. 3, Middlefield, J. L. Gaylord, 25 miles; No. 4, Liberty C. W. Bucher, 25 miles.<sup>101</sup>

One of the original carriers, C. W. Bucher, served for more than 28 years. He used horses exclusively the first three years. From 1905 to 1930 he used eight Fords, resorting to horse power only in time of bad roads. One winter

"... 86 trips were made by sleigh and in 1928, a team was used for 74 trips. The early years of rural delivery embraced few holidays and no vacations... In this long period of service, he has lost only 32 days on sick leave and only two of these days were spent in bed... An estimate of the trips he has made in the 28 and one-fourth years is 8,252, and the mileage over 222,803."<sup>102</sup>

Today we have two rural carriers, and they cover a total of 86 miles.<sup>103</sup>

Beginning January 1, 1908, the post office became a third class office, previously being fourth class.<sup>104</sup> In 1955 the post office became second class.<sup>105</sup>

99. The Winthrop News, April 27, 1911.

100. Interview with Mrs. Arley Merrill, Jan. 28, 1957.

101. Review, June 19, 1902.

102. The Winthrop News, Oct. 30, 1930.

103. Interview with Robert Quigley, Jan. 19, 1957.

104. The Winthrop News, Jan. 9, 1908.

105. Interview with George Brubaker, Jan. 19, 1957.

*I. "34A Please"*

The earliest means of communication was the telegraph line from Dubuque to Jesup, running through Winthrop, which was completed November 15, 1863.<sup>106</sup> At that time the former station agent was replaced by Frank Ward, because he could "run the paper through the telegraph machine and read the dots."<sup>107</sup>

Before a telephone office was established the St. Charles Hotel had a phone connecting it with the depot.<sup>108</sup> In November 1886, telephone wires were being put up on poles. A new telephone office was set up in Independence and lines were connected with Winthrop.<sup>109</sup>

A 1903 report of the telephone exchange listed:

"Forty seven telephones in Winthrop with more to be installed, as soon as received. There were 13 farmer's lines with 174 patrons. Not more than two years ago farmer's telephones were considered a luxury, now they are a necessity."<sup>110</sup>

By 1904, there was hardly a home, town or country, in eastern Buchanan county which was not supplied with a telephone or

"... connected with the Winthrop exchange and used without toll charges. The phone systems are owned by a number of rural companies and these companies are banded together in one huge mutual organization. This brings all the patrons of the town within talking distance of the business men and makes the latest prices and errands a mere matter of conversation. It holds the trade secure for Winthrop. The Bell telephone also has an office at the J. B. Ryan pharmacy, which is used for long distance work, and the local office is located in the H. C. Unbehaun store."<sup>111</sup>

Whether on a "party line" or private, the telephone has always been the fastest and most efficient method of transmitting gossip or late developments. Everyone rushes to the phone and no wonder they get their "wires crossed." Things were no different in 1904, and the central telephone exchange had to put the following plea in the paper:

"In cases of sickness it is desired that patrons shall not call for the numbers where the sick are, unless it be near relatives or mat-

---

106. Civilian, Nov. 19, 1863.

107. Letter from L. W. Rich, printed in *The Winthrop News*, July 1, 1909.

108. *Journal*, May 5, 1882.

109. *Ibid.*, Nov. 18, 1886.

110. *Review*, May 14, 1903.

111. *Ibid.*, Dec. 1, 1904.

ters other than inquiry and condolence. Just call 'central' and it will give the latest reports. This request and rule are made to relieve the afflicted of hearing the phone ring every minute, and of detailing someone about the house to answer the same question over and over again. Take it home to yourself. How would you like it if you were sick and each one of your friends, two hundred or more, would call up every morning and say: 'Hello, my central's slow! How's Bill? No better! Too bad! Think he's not better? Hope he'll be better tomorrow. If you want any help let me know. Tell Bill I asked about him. What doctor you got? Goodby. Central knows all about the sick and will be glad to tell you.

Again, central knows how the trains are. Don't ring the depot and yell: 'How's train No. —? Twenty minutes late, huh? Late yesterday wasn't she? Won't make up any time today, will she? Think she'll lose any more time? Say, Burley,—damn it, he's hung up the receiver on me! Suppose fifty folks would do that every morning? If they should, the station agents would have to 'tend the phone until the authorities called to take him to the insane hospital, and another victim would come to town or go crazy. Just ask the operator at 'central' how the train is. Central knows, and it's central's business to tell you. Also, an order has passed, that there shall be no more free telephoning. All persons not owning phones must pay for the privilege of telephoning."<sup>112</sup>

By 1905, it was necessary to place the wires in a cable as they were getting too thick to get into the central office. H. C. Unbehaun, "the electrician, and his fishpole get busy at times taking 'crosses' out of the maze of wires overhead."<sup>113</sup>

A new switchboard was installed in 1906:

"One can say hello over it without using a megaphone. It is a fine affair with 150 drops and is a modern machine in every particular."<sup>114</sup>

On New Year's Day, 1907, the switchboard was moved from the Unbehaun store to quarters over the J. B. Ryan drug store. Frank Yaw was the new manager.<sup>115</sup> In May 1910 the office was moved to a new building, which is the present location.<sup>116</sup>

112. Review, April 7, 1904.

113. The Winthrop News, Nov. 9, 1905.

114. Ibid., Oct. 25, 1906.

115. Ibid., Jan. 10, 1907.

116. Ibid., May 26, 1910.



The news office published the first telephone directory ever issued in 1908, J. D. Jackson was manager at this time:

"A code was devised—names were listed alphabetically with the number opposite the name . . . Now you say to Central, 34A please, and that calls the Winthrop News office and is short for 'Hello, Central give me the Winthrop News office, please . . .'"<sup>117</sup>  
(The news office still has the same number.)

At this time, the telephone office was used as a weather station:

"If you want to know what the weather is going to be, watch the flags hung out of the south window each day at the telephone central office. The three cornered flag, red, means warmer and same shape in black, cooler. The square red flag means stormy and the black square, storm period. So far the forecasts have been quite reliable and accurate as one could expect on so unreliable a subject as the weather."<sup>118</sup>

In 1938, the Mutual Telephone Exchange and the Winthrop Telephone Co., incorporated under the name of Winthrop Cooperative Telephone Company. They purchased a new American Automatic switchboard to replace the old board which had been used for 25 years.<sup>119</sup>

The telephone company now serves 24 country lines and there are 450 telephones.<sup>120</sup>

An unofficial list of the managers to date is:

H. C. Unbehaun

Frank Yaw, 1907

J. D. Jackson, 1908-1923

L. E. Bailey

Don Nettleton, 1925

Bill James

Lorna James, 1927

J. D. Jackson, Dec. 1933-1944

Mrs. Charles Jones, 1944-present.<sup>121</sup>

This report shows a comparison between the 19th century and the tremendous progress of the 20th century through the means of communication and transportation.

During the summer of 1956 the idea of writing a history of Winthrop came to the author upon learning that the town would be cele-

117. Ibid., Feb. 20, 1908.

118. Ibid., Aug. 6, 1908.

119. Ibid., May 5, 1938.

120. Interview with Mrs. Charles Jones, Jan. 19, 1957.

121. Compiled by Mrs. Beryl Smith from newspaper files.

brating its 100th anniversary in 1957. After consulting with Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Head of the Sociology Department of Cornell College and the author's student advisor, the topic was approved for a thesis. Dr. Ennis considered it a "natural", as the author is a resident of the town. He suggested that a survey of the town be made to learn the differences in Sunday observances. All persons over 55 years of age were interviewed and the results of this survey will be given in Chapter IX.

# Centennial Survey of Sunday Observances

## *A. Purpose of Questionnaire*

A survey of all residents in Winthrop over 55 years of age was made to determine changes in Sunday observances. A total of 156 persons, or one fourth of the population of Winthrop, was interviewed; there were 85 women and 71 men. The sex and age distribution of those interviewed is as follows:

<i>Age Scale</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
55-59	18	12
60-64	14	18
65-69	12	21
70-74	11	15
75-79	9	12
80-84	3	4
85-89	2	1
90-94	2	2

The questionnaire was divided into eight major categories, religion, Sunday recreation, entertaining and food, family worship and altar, work on Sunday, holidays, changes in the home, and word usage.

Those interviewed were asked to recall when they were 15 years of age and to answer the questions according to their remembrances of this period of their life. The oldest persons interviewed were 93 years of age. Therefore we have a sample of life back in 1878 when they would have been fifteen.

There is a fairly accurate measurement of the village life, as 46 out of 156 persons interviewed have spent most of their life in or around Winthrop. The balance have lived here for an average of 31 years. By this, we can see that the population is mainly permanent, with little change.

One hundred twenty-one of those interviewed were born in Iowa, 28 in other states, and seven in foreign countries:

### *Number born in other states*

Illinois—13  
Kentucky—2  
Nebraska—2  
New York—2



Pennsylvania—3  
South Dakota—3  
West Virginia—2  
Wisconsin—1

*Number born in foreign countries*

Austria—1  
Denmark—2  
Germany—1  
Hungary—2  
Sweden—1

The 156 persons are at the present affiliated with the following religious groups:

Methodists—69  
Congregationalists—41  
Catholics—21  
Lutherans—5  
Unity—1  
Evangelical United Brethren—1  
Presbyterian—1  
Remember the Lord—1  
Attend no church—11  
No answer—5

*B. Religion*

It was difficult for all persons to remember how conditions were when they were 15 years of age. Therefore many of the questions were left unanswered. This must be kept in mind, even though the majority of the questionnaires were filled out in their entirety.

Seventy-six per cent of the questionnaires answered dealt with the twenty-year period of 1896-1916. Thus the general evaluations or conditions are of this time.

This period would correspond with that one which an authority calls the middle of the religious stage:

“ . . . from 1890 through World War I represents the peak of Protestant influence and activity in America, these years also constituted the great testing period which was to determine whether the vigorous advance of the past century was to continue into the new century.”<sup>1</sup>

---

1. Winthrop S. Hudson, *The Great Tradition of the American Churches*, pp. 198-199. New York; Harper & Bros., 1953.

A characterization of the religion during this time was evangelism and the moral was high. The churches deprived from state support had to

" . . . assume responsibility for maintaining and perpetuating themselves on a voluntary basis. They had to be both relevant and effective, or perish. They had to be both heard and felt. And evangelical religion was the product of an acceptance by the churches of the responsibility for recruiting their membership on a purely voluntary basis."<sup>2</sup>

The evangelical religion included many reform movements; among them were temperance and Sunday School movements.

Church attendance was not compulsory, but a majority of the people attended; both parents went; and church was considered an indispensable part of Sunday. In a report made by James Bryce in 1910 he said:

"There are churches everywhere, and everywhere equally; in the cities and in the country, in the North and in the South, in the quiet nooks of New England, in the settlements which have sprung up along railroads in the West. In cities of moderate size, as well as in small towns and country places, a stranger is told that possibly a half of the native population go to church at least every Sunday."<sup>3</sup>

In the survey 98 persons reported that they attended church on an average of four times a month when they were fifteen, whereas today only 47 attend every Sunday. Only three people reported that they never went to church when they were 15, but today 53 never attend church. The remainder reported attending one, two, or three times, but it was considerably less in each case. Ninety or 77 per cent of the people reporting said they attended Sunday school when they were 15.

A majority of the people said that they attended more than one service each Sunday. In the late afternoon the youth meetings, such as Junior Endeavor, Senior and Christian Endeavor, and Epworth League, would be held. This would be followed by the evening Vesper or church service.

Everything was prepared for church on Saturday, clothes were washed, starched, and ironed ready to wear the next morning, as it took a considerable amount of time to go by horse and buggy. In the rural vicinity services were often held in school houses.

2. Ibid., pp. 19-20.

3. James Bryce, *The American Commonwealth*, Vol. II, pp. 781-782. New York: Macmillan Co., 1910.



CLIPPER BAND, ORGANIZED 1892

Top row, left to right—T. P. Chamberlain, F. M. Tisdell, Eugene Dunlap, Frank Potter, Galen Higman, M. A. Dunlap. Seated, left to right—Vere Moore, Bert Knowles, Fay R. Place, leader, Elmer Brintnall, and Edgar Brintnall.





HARRISON CLUB, 1889

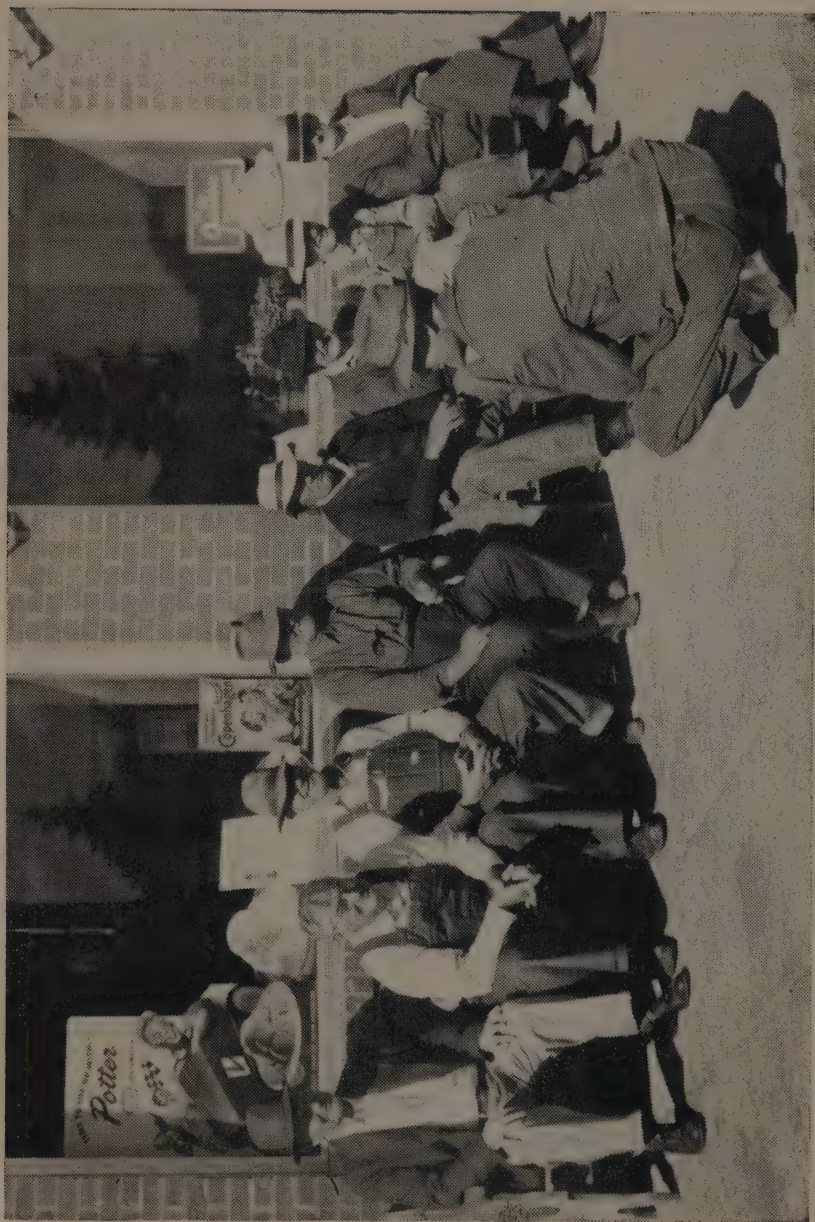
This group wore the Harrison hat and campaigned for Harrison, who was President, 1889-1893. Standing, Ed Merserve, A. M. Griswold. Seated, left to right, W. E. Griswold, Harry Higman, Wm. Stewart, Amos Judson.



THE JOLLY TOM CAT CLUB, 1908

Back row, left to right—Hazel Wilson, Adena Wilson, Jean Thompson, Gladys Higman, Ethel Bissel, Donna Miller. Front row—Carlie Kinney, Helen McFarland, Leta Norman, Arley Higman and Camilla Metcalf.





A PLACE IN THE SUN, 1947

In Winthrop the store bench is a tradition and a coveted place toward which many an older man looks longingly. Many a good story is told over the sidewalk, as this very typical picture shows. Here Lester Dennie is in the act of telling a story while Jim Fagan, Earl Soesbe, S. W. Rich, Bob McDowell, George Hines, Dave Love, John Callan, and Jim Hickman listen eagerly.



The family went together as a group, and the father would lead them to their pew, which would usually be the same each Sunday. A pew rent was paid in the Catholic church.

One lady remembers wearing a sunbonnet and cloak to church. She also remembers a "mourner's bench," which was in the front of the church. All of the old men would get down on their knees and pray for salvation. Others remembered when the women sat on one side of the church and the men on the other. Instead of a collection plate one lady said that a long stick with a bag on the end was passed for the offering. Children went to both church and Sunday school (which was held after church), and they had to "sit not play." Clothes weren't as important then as they are today; men often wore overalls. The minister never received much pay, but was given food, fuel, and other necessities, or a good dinner at the homes of the parishoners.

The preachers were more evangelistic. They had less educational preparation, but many of those interviewed thought their discourses were just as good as those of today. Their personalities were different in that they were stricter and more solemn. One person remembered a preacher who was an auctioneer.

Perhaps they were similar to the farmer-preachers mentioned by Theodore Roosevelt in his *The Winning of the West*:

"They lived and worked exactly as did their flocks; they cleared the ground, split rails, planted corn, and raised hogs on equal terms with their parishioners."<sup>4</sup>

Sermons preached then were more "fiery" or evangelical, more on salvation, temperance, heaven and hell, hell and brimstone, and old time religion. They were more consecrated, orthodox, and Biblical, especially the Old Testament. Today it is more theoretical, and application is made to everyday life. Sermons are in the manner of stories, linking world affairs and current events, and they are more socio-cultural. There is also more form or routine, and people are less demonstrative.

The teachings and services have also changed in their strict drilling of the Bible. People seemed more sincere then and their religion meant more to them. Today there are all kinds of religious materials instead of just the Bible. People feel that their attitudes have changed in that they are more convinced of the necessity of religion now, and that religion strengthens with age.

---

4. T. R. Roosevelt, *The Winning of the West*, Vol. IV, p. 21. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1900.

The people took part in the service more; deacons or Elders of the church would often be called upon to give prayers or testimonials. They used to sit in the "Amen Corner," and during the service shout "Amen" or "Hallelujah." There used to be a song leader, who would lead the singing of the hymns. The congregation was often asked what they wanted to sing. There used to be much kneeling during the prayers, especially of the minister. When the church service was over everyone shook hands, greeting everyone else. Services usually lasted from an hour to one and one-half hours.

A list compiled of the favorite old hymns sung then included: The Old Rugged Cross, Rock of Ages, Nearer My God to Thee, Jesus Lover of My Soul, Onward Christian Soldiers, What a Friend We Have in Jesus, At the Cross, When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder, Shall We Gather At the River, Bringing in the Sheaves, Leaning on the Everlasting Arms, Count Your Blessings, Just As I Am, How Firm a Foundation, Rescue the Perishing, Holy, Holy, Holy, God Be With You Till We Meet Again, Standing on the Promises of God, Sweet Hour of Prayer, God Will Take Care of You, and Jesus Saviour Pilot Me.

A story was told of three churches located near each other; a passerby overheard the congregations singing. The first church was singing *Will There Be Any Stars In My Crown*, the second sang, *No Not One*, and the third *That Will Be Glory For Me*.

Other favorites included: Jerusalem, My Happy Home, We're Going Home to Die No More, Washed in the Blood, He Lifted Me, The City Four Square, If It's Good Enough for Father It's Good Enough for Me, Marching to Zion, Walking and Talking With My Dear Savior, and Throw Out the Lifeline.

Other types of meetings mentioned, other than the Sunday service were: mid-week prayer meetings, hymn sings or song services, cottage prayer meetings held at the home in the winter, Sunday School conventions, and teachers institutes. There were Chautauquas, camp meetings lasting several weeks, church sociables, and church suppers. Sperry in *Religion in America* said:

"The social life of the average American parish still centers about the church. In towns and villages this gathering is an occasion of first importance. It give parishioners their one best non-Sunday opportunity to meet and affirm their solidarity as a 'beloved community.' Its culinary good reputé is a matter of concern to the ministering women on any given evening. It prides itself on its home cooking and has an aristocratic contempt

for bought food. Its menu is classic: baked beans, cold ham, chicken salad, scalloped oysters, doughnuts, coffee (with the meal), pumpkin pie, mince pie, ice cream, layer cake. The ingredients might well have been sold and given to the poor, since the cost of the supper is always well above the charge."<sup>5</sup>

The revival was the chief means by which men and women were introduced to the Christian life and church membership. Most churches would conduct a series of revival meetings once a year, and at this time professional evangelists were brought in from outside.

### *C. Sunday Recreation and the Law*

Observance of the Sabbath appears to be more a matter of family limitation than the community. In all of the Sunday activities asked above on the questionnaire, most of the answers were fairly evenly divided as to whether they were allowed or not allowed to take part in them. Four categories in which there were exceptions were: garden and yard work, cards, knitting and crocheting and dancing. These were definitely voted down as not permissible on the Sabbath.

The basis for not allowing sports on Sunday lies in the fact that economically others would be required to work to provide the entertainment for those taking part. If sports were kept private it was permissible to take part in them, as they were considered healthful to the body. It was when they became commercialized that a tabu was placed on them. Also, they believed that morally "open Sundays" had corrupting and destructive influences. And character-wise, consideration and reverence are better learned by a worshipful Sunday.

All disturbing noises were prohibited; children had to play quietly; shows were forbidden. For many, Sunday meant a day of rest at home, they didn't travel, or if so they only went an average of ten miles. Some people were even forbidden to take walks on Sunday.

Funerals were held on Sunday, while today funerals are usually held throughout the week. One person remembers watching the carriages load up and drive away from the church at funerals; it was the custom to toll the bell as each carriage drove away.

Almost all of the families took a daily paper, with the *Dubuque Telegraph Herald* being the dominant one during this time. Other papers included those from Chicago, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Des Moines, and Independence. Only sixteen people remembered taking

---

5. Willard L. Sperry, *Religion in America*, p. 121. New York: Macmillan Co., 1946.



a Sunday paper. Sunday was to be devoted to reading religious material. One person recalls one of the men in town ordering a Sunday paper at the drug store; but he would never pick it up until Monday morning.

Bryce in his report said "the ordinary reading of the average family had a religious tinge," being mostly "religious or semi-religious weekly and monthly magazines."<sup>6</sup> Among some of those mentioned in the survey were: *The Christian Herald, Witness, Christian Martyrs, Sunday Visitor, Christian Advocate, Christian Endeavor World, Advance*, and *Youth's Companion*. More than fifty per cent of the people said that they read the Bible less today than they did when they were fifteen years of age.

#### *D. Entertaining and Food*

Once every two or three weeks the minister would call for dinner; he usually came throughout the week. On Sunday the front parlor would be opened. When the neighbors came to call they would sing, play the piano, visit, make candy, pop popcorn, hold debates and spell downs, or play such games as, "Skip to My Lou," "Keep the Pig in the Parlor," "What Shall We Do With the Drunken Sailor," and "Krinkly, Krankly, is the song, sing and dance it all day long."

Although some people wouldn't even light their stove on Sunday, the majority of the people prepared their meals. All of the baking was done on Saturday. Meat was butchered, cured, and prepared at home, such as smoked ham, bacon, sausage, fresh side pork, salt pork, meat in brine, blood sausage, hasenpfeffer, head cheese, corn beef, guinea hen, goose, duck, and chicken.

There was a lot of potatoes, garden vegetables, fruit, greens, navy beans, dried sweet corn, dried apples, sauerkraut, squash, hominy, hot potato salad, stewed onions, apple dumplings, rice, noodles, corn-meal mush, potato soup, fried mush, hogust (corn meal and cracklings), buttermilk pop (mush in buttermilk), fried eggs, dressing, buckwheat pancakes, sorghum, molasses, cottage cheese, home-churned butter, johnny cake, graham bread, salt rising bread, corn meal muffins, oatmeal bread, coffee cake, baking powder biscuits, milk gravy, doughnuts, steamed suet pudding, indian pudding, bread pudding, homemade ice cream, lots of pie, and lemonade. Some people drank rye for coffee, and flour, salt, and similar items were bought by the barrel.

---

6. Bryce, op. cit., p. 781-782.

*E. Family Worship and Altar*

Hudson says:

"By the nineteen twenties, the contagious enthusiasm which had been poured into the organized activities of the churches had largely evaporated. The two self-denying ordinances of church attendance and Sabbath observance which had long given eloquent testimony to the strength and influence of religious faith in national life were no longer sustained and enforced by the moral conscience of the community. Habits of temperance and sobriety inculcated by the churches for over a century, disappeared almost overnight. Family devotions survived in most homes only as a childhood memory, grace before meals became increasingly rare . . ."<sup>7</sup>

A little more than half of the people surveyed said that they had family worship or an altar in their home when they were fifteen years of age. It usually consisted of a morning or evening Bible reading, devotions, and prayers. Only 45 people said that grace was not said before meals. The father usually said grace; only a few mentioned that the mother or the children said the prayer; sometimes the oldest child or the youngest in the home would say it.

*F. Work on Sunday*

The effort to "bring back the keeping of the Sabbath" by legislative action was sometimes referred to as the "Blue Laws." Sperry lists some of them:

"These laws assure quiet and protection during the hours of church services. Public worship may not be disturbed by interruption within, or noisy confusion outside the building. Nuisances are not tolerated within certain distances of religious edifices."<sup>8</sup>

Strict Sabbath observance prohibited trading, merchandising, and work. Only 22 persons remembered purchasing goods on Sunday, and 41 remembered that stores were open, usually only a few hours in the morning.

Only necessary chores were allowed, only drugs and things needed could be sold on Sunday, and the sale of liquor was prohibited. One person remembers that he wasn't allowed to "even buy a postage stamp."

One source says that at the end of the 19th century there was a decline in this strict church discipline:

7. Hudson, op. cit., p. 196.

8. Sperry, op. cit., p. 62.

"Most of the leading newspapers were publishing Sunday editions, theaters were beginning to give Sunday performances, and the habit of resorting to places of public amusement on Sunday was increasing."<sup>9</sup>

### *G. Holidays*

Holidays were celebrated in much the same way as they are today, but they were looked forward to with much more anticipation.

At Christmas time the gifts were taken to the church and exchanged, instead of giving them in the home. Gifts were usually clothes, fruit, or candy, very seldom did they receive toys. On Easter and Thanksgiving days, the families, friends or neighbors got together for the day. Because of a lack of transportation, neighbors would get together more frequently than the family.

There has been a big change in the Fourth of July celebrations. Usually there would be a community gathering at a nearby timber or woods. There would be a feast, games, races, fireworks, a political address, and a dance in the evening.

### *H. Changes in the Home*

There have been many changes in the home within the century. Of the people interviewed, six do not own their homes, two have no radio, eight have no telephone, 26 have no TV set, 30 have no car, seven have no electric refrigerator, and 91 have no deep freeze.

### *I. Word Usage*

A list compiled of some of the commonly used words or phrases that have gone out of usage included the following:

<i>Apparel</i>	sacque	leghorn
shirtwaist	camisole	reed skirt (whalebone)
tam o'shanter	night cap	hair switch
frock	bustle	
corset	lace mitts	<i>Yard Goods</i>
corset cover	feather boa	calico
bloomers	clocked stockings	lindsey woolsey
teddies	hood	shetland floss
chemise	macintosh	silk mull
drawers	gaiter	<i>Food and Kitchen</i>
kerchief	spat	<i>Utensils</i>
facinator	wristlet	vittles
wrapper	stiff cady	sauce

9. Bryce, op. cit., pp. 782-783.



spuds	<i>Home Remedies</i>	phaeton
gems	chiclets	baruche
sop	pine tar	side saddle
chicory	senna tea	black snake
yeast foam	sassafras tea	lap robe
saleratus	asafetida	fly net
pork barrel	<i>Various Articles</i>	<i>Titles</i>
spider	flatiron	Pa and Ma
iron kettle	bootjack	Preacher
bean jar	sofa	Relations
gravey boat	tidy (scarf on back of	Kinfolks
cracker jar	chair)	
moustache cup	wash stand	<i>Buildings</i>
coal oil	commode	Tonsorial parlor
lantern	pot	<i>Slang</i>
<i>Rooms</i>	husher (crocheted	Hark
buttery	cover for lid of pot)	Twenty three skiddoo
pantry	chamber	Oh you kid
larder	<i>Farm Items</i>	By heck
parlor	swine	Fiddlesticks
stoop	kine	Pshaw
<i>Musical Instruments</i>	harrow	poke (sack of
dulcimer	reaper	something)
melodeon	buckboard	"tote" or "pack" a pail
gramophone	surrey	of water

Through this survey the difference in Sunday observances have been presented to better picture the many changes along this line.

The purpose of Chapter X is to relate some of the stories that have been told and retold about the people and things that make a community interesting.

## A Century of Living

Throughout the years there are always many stories of unusual, funny, or tragic happenings. This history would not be complete if a few of these human interest stories were not included.

### *A. Fourth of July Celebrations*

"It was the pleasure of a select few to predict a complete failure in our attempt to enjoy a Sabbath School celebration on the glorious fourth, but when their astonished visions revealed nearly 2000 persons in procession led by stirring music, and the morning air of that beautiful day ringing with din and shouts of youthful celebrators, it may be fairly inferred that the tune of failure was pitched in a lower key. As usual Mr. Dunlap threw open the gates to his magnificent elm grove and the crowd found platform, seats and ice cream stands all prepared for the occasion. In passing the track of the railroad the morning express gave us a fine signal salutation from handkerchiefs moving at every window of the coaches. Arriving at the grove Rev. L. W. Brintnall opened the exercises with a devout patriotic appeal to the God of nations for his blessing, then followed vocal music led by Mr. Powers. The Declaration of Independence was read by Dr. Markham, after which the Rev. Mr. Couch gave us an oration every word of which was pure gold. Then came the event of the day, for under the dense shading of those tall elms numerous circles were collected and the picnic performance opened. All enjoyed themselves hugely . . . Not a single case of inebriation or injury in the last degree occurred."<sup>1</sup>

"The 97th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence began with a National Salute of thirteen guns at sunrise . . . Procession started on Main Street and proceeded to Dunlap's grove. There were 3000 people present, and 350 wagons in the procession . . . The exercises included music by the Winthrop Glee Club . . . address . . . music by the band . . . reading of the Declaration of Independence . . . basket picnic at noon . . . The utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed, among all classes as was eminently proper on the natal day of the nation."<sup>2</sup>

---

1. Bulletin, July 14, 1871.

2. Ibid., July 12, 1872.

*B. Vagabond Escapes Lynching*

"George Vrooman, a one-legged vagabond, who has been hanging around Winthrop, disappeared one night last week and with him a valuable horse belonging to a stranger who was visiting in town. His trail was taken when fresh and he was overhauled at Mechanicsville, Cedar county. He abandoned the horse on hearing of pursuit. After being caught, he was brought to Winthrop and examined before a magistrate, and held under bonds for a time. While he was eating at the table of his captors, previous to being taken to Independence to be locked up, a score or more of infuriated people broke into the house, dragged him from the table, put a rope around his neck and would in a few minutes have had him hanging from the nearest tree, had not Alex Risk and one or two other of the cooler citizens with drawn revolvers rescued him from the mob, and stood guard until the sheriff, who had been telegraphed for, arrived to take him to jail."<sup>3</sup>

*C. The Heavens Above*

"Henry Unbehaun almost became convinced that the world was coming to an end immediately, on last Monday evening about 11 o'clock. He was walking upon the road when suddenly it seemed to him as if the world were all ablaze beneath his feet. After surveying the heavens in vain for the meteor he heard a whiz and then all was dark. The meteor must have in some way eluded his vision."<sup>4</sup>

"A number of citizens hiked to the city limit line west of town on Friday evening May 13, determined to decide for themselves the question as to whether or not there was such a monster in the heavens as Halley's comet. They arrived on the 'camping ground' at exactly 8:15, the time set by those who were supposed to know all about the movements of the 'fickle wanderer' but Mr. Comet did not put in an appearance until 8:30, and the watchers were almost as disappointed as though it had not appeared at all, as there was a cloudy sky, obscuring the view."<sup>5</sup>

*D. Money, Money, Money!*

"While excavating for the erection of a horse and cow barn on his place just at the southwest edge of town last Thursday, Albert Reed unearthed a tin can, which contained 76 pieces of

3. Bulletin, October 8, 1869.

4. Journal, Feb. 24, 1887.

5. The Winthrop News, May 26, 1910.



counterfeit money. They were all U. S. tender ranging from \$2.50 gold coins to 10 cent pieces. The dies must have been good ones as the metal and coins, which have no doubt been buried 35 to 40 years, are still almost in passable condition.”<sup>6</sup>

“While repairing the brick wall of the town electric plant recently, R. A. Morse came across a 1912 five cent piece. This piece of money was placed under the first brick laid in the northwest corner of the building by the late Lyle Moore. Mr. Morse recalls the incident as he was one of the workmen on the job at that time.”<sup>7</sup>

#### *E. Tapping*

“Winthrop is a vast sugar bowl these days. One sees pails, cans, bottles, etc. hanging from the maple trees over town in any direction one may look. Each home is a sugar camp, and while none of the product will be shipped, it will help sweeten the lives of many who love the stuff on the flapjacks mother makes.”<sup>8</sup>

#### *F. Tragedy Strikes*

“Miss Addie Allen while traveling by stage to visit her sister in Dakota, had her hands, feet and ears frozen and amputation was necessary. Two of her traveling companions were frozen to death by her side. (On February 2, a telegram was received announcing the death of Miss Allen.)”<sup>9</sup>

“Winthrop house of tragic fame, built in 1882, is razed because of the horror of a triple homicide that wiped out survivors of the McFarland family, once an influential unit in the commercial, civic and cultural life of the town—haunted memories of the people here until ghosts were evoked and the fine old mansion could not be maintained as a residence—even with the bribe of free occupancy . . . it has been doomed to demolition . . . because it had been the scene of a double murder and suicide of peculiarly appalling nature.

The principals, Edwin McFarland heir to his father’s business and place as the head of the family and noted throughout the town as a dutiful son and loving brother, strangled his mother and sister and hanged himself apparently in a sudden mental lapse caused by worry over financial setbacks . . . The triple tragedy was discovered the morning of April 9, 1924, when

---

6. The Winthrop News, Sept. 4, 1913.

7. Ibid., Oct. 16, 1930.

8. Ibid., March 21, 1907.

9. Journal, Jan. 26, 1888.

McFarland's failure to appear at his store caused an investigation by employees.

Since the day of the discovery, the house had been anathema. No one would live in it until a family offered the place rent free, in hope of tricking the jinx, moved in, stayed a few months and moved out.

Rumors of moans and shrieks, eerie lights and flittering forms spread through the community. Young people walking in the evening avoided the street ignoring the fact the moans and wails may merely have been the wind whistling through speaking tubes with which the house was equipped, the weird lights caused by auto lamps shining on the cuttings in the beautiful plate glass windows, the flittering forms reflections of passerbys in the many mirrors.

A reputation had been established. None would question it. Soon the house will be only a memory."<sup>10</sup>

"Grim, stark tragedy decimated nearly an entire family . . . six in the family drowned when their car plunged into the river; one saved . . . former Winthrop residents, Lyle Postel, his three sons, his mother, Mrs. Namie Postel Payne and his sister Mary Jean Postel all died on June 3 . . . only survivor Mrs. Lyle Postel . . . Group funeral services for the six were conducted at the high school auditorium in Winthrop . . . burial in Fairview Cemetery."<sup>11</sup>

#### G. *Winthrop Doctor Poses for Grant Wood Painting*

"Grant Wood painted 'American Gothic' in 1930, and it made him internationally famous . . . The wide-eyed serious looking farmer holding a pitchfork in the famous painting is Dr. B. H. McKeeby, a former Winthrop dentist. The woman in the picture was posed by Mr. Wood's sister.

Dr. McKeeby began the practice of dentistry in Winthrop following his graduation from the State University of Iowa in 1894. He continued his practice there until 1901, when he moved to Cedar Rapids.

His wife was the former Miss Belle Metcalf of Winthrop. Both Mr. and Mrs. McKeeby are now deceased."<sup>12</sup>

"The summer-kitchen of O. J. Metcalf again afforded a very pleasant place in which a number of our young people enjoyed

10. Waterloo Courier, May 10, 1930.

11. The Winthrop News, June 7, 1951.

12. Conservative, Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955.

themselves for a few hours on Saturday evening last. The room was beautifully decorated with Chinese lanterns which gave ample light for the occasion, and in fact everything was in tip-top shape for a grand time. The handkerchief was the first to make its appearance, and speeds rapidly around the circle of young merry-makers, in the game commonly called poison, and after this had lost some of its enthusiasm other interesting games were introduced, the most amusing of which was the one planned by Dr. McKeeby. The instructions were as follows: Everybody should tell a story, sing a song, whistle a tune or dance a jig. Those who were not prepared to act at the expiration of the time, were taken in hand by the committee which consisted of Bert Slaughter and Frank Tisdell who aided them in dancing the Indian war dance. The time seemed to pass by so rapidly that the kettle of taffy was hardly noticed until it was steaming and boiling, and the cook called a halt, when everybody proceeded to pull the elastic cane juice. Pull? Well I guess they did, for they had a hungry look, and were perhaps urged by an awful appetite for candy. Everything went lovely with the exception of a little mishap in the way of a wash stand breaking down on which were seated Dr. McKeeby and Miss Minnie Slaughter, which caused considerable laughter, and this added to the other amusements was the making of a grand time."<sup>13</sup>

#### *H. Gee! Haw!*

A letter from D. M. Love of Winthrop to the editor of *The American Ironsmith* said:

"In July or the forepart of August 1908, I first shod a team for W. S. Hamilton. He operated a threshing machine and portable saw mill, did repair work and was on the road mostly all the time. So his horses were shod all the time until the winter of 1929 and 1930, when one died and the other wasn't shod anymore . . . their names were Don and Nick . . . They were shod 7 or 8 times a year and all that over a period of 22 years . . . That is my long record for shoeing one team of horses."<sup>14</sup>

"Of Joe Johnson's forty-three years residence in Winthrop . . . more than 35 of them have been spent at what he calls 'teaming' . . . his hauling consisted chiefly of lumber and coal with occasional loads of sand for cement work or fill dirt for some street or construction job . . . to say nothing of thousands of kids.

13. Review, April 3, 1897.

14. *The American Ironsmith*, March 1944.



Between hauling jobs, he plowed gardens in the spring and probably knows your back yard as well as you do . . . he has worn out about 10 horses . . . Kids have been begging Joe for the past 35 years—'Let me drive the team, Joe! 'Naw, Joe, not him, it's my turn; he drove last trip! . . . It was as much a part of their lives as the flag pole on the corner or band concerts on Saturday nights.'<sup>15</sup>

### *I. Prowler Terrifies Town*

"Winthrop residents were awakened about 2:30 a.m. Sunday by the fire whistle summoning them to help in a manhunt for a prowler seen in the southwest part of town . . . the search started after the man, a Negro fled from the home of Mr. and Mrs. Al Rich who awakened to find him standing by their bed . . . the foreman of the extra railroad gang of negroes was questioned, who investigated and found one missing and that there had been a fight earlier in the evening between two negroes . . . the search continued, blood stains were found on the window sills and door steps of four homes he had tried to enter . . . about 7 a.m. he was found hiding in the weeds along the railroad track . . . Sheriff Hart and his deputy took him to the county jail . . ."<sup>16</sup>

### *J. This Made News*

A prominent lady, "age 50 years, attempted suicide, gun was directed toward heart, but deflected from course by a steel of her corset."<sup>17</sup>

"Art Miller unfortunately killed seven of Mr. Singer's geese, thinking they were wild ones. He borrowed a gun to shoot them and did not discover his mistake until he reached home and found they had been plucked."<sup>18</sup>

"A. C. Housholder's little girl, Nettie, had a narrow escape from drowning last Thursday. She fell into a barrel of water and was rescued by a runner who saw her across the street."<sup>19</sup>

### *K. Kidnapped*

"Iroquois, S. D., Sept. 15:

Mrs. Jack Miller, of Iroquois, has been united with her brother in Indianapolis, after a separation of 41 years. The story began

15. The Winthrop News, Jan. 31, 1952.

16. Ibid., June 12, 1952.

17. Bulletin, May 7, 1875.

18. Ibid., April 4, 1889.

19. Ibid., June 26, 1890.

on April 19, 1873, when Mrs. Miller then a little girl, was kidnapped from her home in St. Louis.

Playing with her brother on the porch of her parent's home, a stranger approached and threw a sack over the head of the girl and carried her away. The mother returned to find the brother, now Frank James of Indianapolis, sobbing on the porch.

The girl's captors gave her to a man in Winthrop, Iowa. She was fairly well treated until another man carried her away and sold her to the notorious Bender family of robbers and murderers in Nebraska. Standing, one day in the doorway of the Bender cottage near Blair, Nebraska, three woodchoppers passed. She was crying and they took her away; then came back with a posse and captured the Benders.

After the trial and conviction of the Benlers, Mrs. Miller was claimed by an Iowa woman, who said she was her mother. A year later the false mother deserted her, and since that time Mrs. Miller has made her way in the world, always searching for her parents. For ten years she has been happily married at Iroquois. Her brother was located through notices she inserted in various newspapers, in which she described incidents remembered from her childhood. From her brother Mrs. Miller learned her mother died five years after her disappearance and that her father offered a reward of \$1,000 and mortgaged his little home to make a search for the child."<sup>20</sup>

"Many of the older residents remember some of the incidents which occurred among certain families along in the '70s. In answer to a letter of inquiry Miss Addie Potter received the following note from the lady in the case. 'I lived with James Wilson and his wife Dorkis, who had two sons, Ed and Fred. Near us lived Mr. and Mrs. James Ferguson whose children were Elinor, Bertie, Ollie and a baby whose name I have forgotten. The corner store was kept by Mr. Hildreth and the elevator by Mr. Risk. One doctor's name was Wade. The meat market was kept by Mr. Robinson, and the saloon keeper was known as Old Shortie. I think at that time the justice of peace was Gib Titus who had two daughters, Bessie and Lila. I was there when Winthrop burned. My name while with the Wilsons was Ida Wilson. I was taken to the Wilson family in April or May, 1873 or 1874. I was between 3 and 4 years old. My other name was Evelyn James. Mrs. A. J. Miller, Iroquois, S.D.'"<sup>21</sup>

20. The Winthrop News, Sept. 17, 1914.

21. Ibid., Oct. 1, 1914.

### L. *Good Samaritans*

"Decoration Day was observed here quietly and in a manner satisfactory to all concerned . . . an incident occurred that day, pathetic in the extreme, and which proved that there are still good Samaritans on earth and that warm, sympathizing hearts and willing hands are plenty in this community. In the morning, a family of emigrants drove into town from Wisconsin enroute to some unknown destination, bringing with them a dead child about eight months old and it was supposed to have smothered in some way during the night. The remains were taken to the residence of W. C. Boynton, where there was singing, prayer and a short talk by Rev. Spiker, then to the new cemetery, followed by a large crowd. Being Decoration day the little coffin was lowered into a bed of flowers, with the grief stricken and destitute looking family standing by. It was a sight that moistened many an eye, and one not to be easily forgotten."<sup>22</sup>

### M. *Well-known Ornithologist*

Fred J. Pierce has been editor of the magazine *Iowa Bird Life* since 1930. He has "one of the finest bird libraries in the state." A few of his valuable volumes are *Carver's Travels*, by Captain J. Carver, published in 1792, and the first edition of a nine volume set of Alexander Wilson's *American Ornithology*, published in the years from 1808 to 1814, with hand-colored plates. Wilson is considered the father of American ornithology. Mr. Pierce also has an original page from Audubon's journals written while in England, in October 1830, which he received from Audubon's niece, Maria R. Audubon, in 1921. This document is a very valuable one from a historical standpoint and "one which is not often found in the archives of a state."<sup>23</sup>

### N. *A.P. and A.J.*

The story has been told of Alonzo P. Foster, the man who drew up the plat of the town, and Alonzo J. Foster, a resident of the town but no relation to A. P. A. P. was known as Apple Pie and A. J. was known as Apple Jack. And to make the coincidence greater, both served in the Civil War and they both married women whose names were Susan.<sup>24</sup>

22. The Winthrop News, June 6, 1901.

23. Ibid., April 7, 1921, Oct. 21, 1943, and personal interview with Fred J. Pierce, Feb. 3, 1957.

24. Story told by Mrs. Hazel Ownby.



*O. Chautauquas*

The first year that Chautauquas made their appearance in Buchanan County was in Independence in 1907.<sup>25</sup> In August 1910, mention was made of a Chautauqua coming to Winthrop. There were two programs each day commencing on Tuesday and continuing over Sunday. The season ticket was \$1.<sup>26</sup> Meetings were always held in tents and the people had to sit on benches. Fred and Ned Hickman, twin brothers, traveled Chautauqua circuits for nine years. Fred, now of Battle Creek, Michigan, writes:

"My brother Ned and I were graduated from Winthrop High School in the spring of '18. We entered Cornell College the fall of the same year. We were members of S.A.T.C., which means Student Army Training Corps. We attended Cornell the next year, 1919, and in the spring of that year we had a chance to try out for professional work as musical talent for the Chautauqua Circuits. We went to Des Moines (Drake U.), where we were auditioned by a Mr. Harry Bland, who was producing companies (musical) mostly male quartets for various Chautauqua Companies.

We were accepted and were rehearsed for 3 or 4 weeks with two other fellows to whip up a 1½ hour program. We were also instrumentalists as well as vocalists. Ned played trumpet and I played violin. Another member was our pianist, the other usually doubled on saxophone and clarinet.

We were booked our first summer with the Standard Chautauqua Company out of Lincoln, Nebraska and our bookings were mostly in the west, in Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado.

We followed this work for about nine years. In that time we were with different Chautauqua companies, and our personnel changed from time to time. Another Cornell man, Steve Williams of West Bend, Iowa was our pianist on a couple of different circuits. We played in all 48 states and two Canadian provinces.

We saw many interesting places and met many interesting people. The Pacific Northwest being particularly beautiful, and in the southwest we visited the Aztec ruins in New Mexico.

We had many pleasant experiences and some that weren't so pleasant. On one occasion we drove 10 miles in a pouring rain by mule wagon (Texas) to make our date."<sup>27</sup>

25. Chappell and Chappell, *op. cit.*, p. 464.

26. The Winthrop News, Aug. 18, 1910.

27. Letter from Fred Hickman, Feb. 18, 1957.

*P. The Unusual*

In 1936, a likeness of H. C. Unbehaun of Winthrop appeared in Ripley's "Believe it or Not." He was seated in a chair reading the *Bulletin-Journal*, the county paper, which had come to his home for 71 years.<sup>28</sup>

In 1943, an item concerning Mrs. C. S. Stoneman of Winthrop appeared in "Iowa Oddities." She attended the 50th wedding anniversary celebration, February 15, of her daughter, Mrs. John Pierce, also of Winthrop.<sup>29</sup>

*Q. "Outlaws"*

Eugene Dunlap, life time resident of Winthrop, recalls the famous bandit, Jesse James and his band. The gang operated in Iowa and Minnesota in the years, 1870-1875. Mr. Dunlap says he remembers one instance when they watered their horses at his father's farm just outside of Winthrop, and that Frank James let him ride his horse. Mr. Dunlap was probably 7 or 8 years of age at this time.<sup>30</sup>

We have the knowledge of the past, the lessons learned, the steps taken forward which can only be based on past accumulations of knowledge. We have pleasant memories and the unpleasant, memories that conjure up scenes of great jubilation and memories of grief.

Let us hold our past as a valuable gem, and treat the present with the respect we accord the past.

---

28. Waterloo Courier, Nov. 12, 1936.

29. Des Moines Register and Tribune, Feb. 21, 1943.

30. Story told by Eugene Dunlap, Jan. 19, 1957.

## NOTES



# Bibliography

## *Books*

- Biographical Souvenir of the Counties Delaware and Buchanan, Iowa, Chicago: F. A. Battery Co., 1890.
- Bryce, James, The American Commonwealth, Vol. II. New York: MacMillan Co., 1910.
- Chappell, Harry Church and Katharyn Joella, History of Buchanan County and Its People, Vol. I. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1914.
- Hudson, Winthrop S., The Great Tradition of the American Churches, New York: Harper & Bros., 1953.
- Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Iowa. Chicago: Andreas Atlas Co., 1875.
- Percival, E. S. & Elizabeth, History of Buchanan County, Iowa, Cleveland, Ohio: Williams Bros., 1881.
- Roosevelt, T. R., The Winning of the West, Vol. IV. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1900.
- Sperry, Willard L., Religion in America, New York: MacMillan Co., 1946.
- Wallace, W. L., Story of Iowa, Mason City, Iowa: Klipto Loose Leaf Co., 1945.

## *Records*

- National Archives and Records Service, Washington 25, D.C.
- Illinois Central, Office of Superintendent, 1006½ East 4th Street, Waterloo, Iowa.
- Town Office, Winthrop, Maine.
- Iowa State Highway Commission, Ames, Iowa.
- State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa.
- Order of the Eastern Star Headquarters, 6th & Mulberry, Des Moines 9, Iowa.
- County Records, Recorder's Office, Independence, Iowa.
- Minute Books of the Town of Winthrop, Vol. I, 1886-1898; Vol. II, missing; Vol. III, March 1914-July 1925; Vol. IV, Aug. 1925-April 1946; Vol. V, May 1946-date.

## *Newspapers*

- The Independence Civilian (1855-March 29, 1864), Independence, Ia.
- Independence Conservative (March 29, 1864-1957), Independence, Ia.
- Buchanan County Bulletin (1865-1891), Independence, Iowa.
- Buchanan County Journal (1881-1891), Independence, Iowa.
- Bulletin-Journal (1891-1957), Independence, Iowa.
- Independence Conservative, 100th Anniversary Edition, Sept. 1955.
- Winthrop Times (1891-1893), Winthrop, Ia.
- Buchanan County Weekly Review (Jan. 1893-May 1893), Winthrop, Ia.
- Buchanan County Review (May 1893-1905), Winthrop, Ia.
- The Winthrop News (Oct. 26, 1905-date), Winthrop, Ia.
- Waterloo Daily Courier, Waterloo, Iowa.
- Des Moines Register and Tribune, Des Moines, Iowa.

## NOTES

# Appendix

Table I

## Mayors

The following is a list of the mayors of Winthrop, Iowa in the order of their service:

N. Barney .....	1886	A. W. Norman .....	1910
D. W. Hovey .....	1887	E. G. Schacherer <sup>2</sup> .....	1912
W. C. Boynton .....	1888	A. W. Norman .....	1914
C. D. Van Horn .....	1889	C. H. Parker .....	April 1920
A. C. Housholder .....	1890	D. M. Love .....	November 1920
J. Palmetier .....	1891	M. A. Dunlap .....	1930
A. Downing .....	1893	Jas. D. McKay .....	1936
O. J. Metcalf .....	1894	Frank Hearn .....	December 1938
N. Barney .....	1895	Kenneth Norman .....	1940
F. C. Norman <sup>1</sup> .....	1896	Cass Miller <sup>3</sup> .....	1944
George Spangler .....	1898	Alfred Wenholz .....	1946
M. L. Shine .....	1904	A. J. Murphy <sup>4</sup> .....	1954

1. 1886-1896, Town records, Minute book No. 1, pp. 25, 51, 70, 82, 132, 163, 214, 230 252, 278.
2. 1898-1912, from The Winthrop News files, Minute book for that period being lost.
3. 1914-1946, Town records, Minute book No. 3, pp. 1, 94, 110. Minute book, No. 4, pp. 72, 226, 267, 288, 347, 378.
4. 1954-, Town records, Minute book No. 5, p. 262.

Table II

## Comparison of Merchants

1904 <sup>1</sup>	1957
3 general merchandise	3 grocery stores (sell meat)
1 general merchandise, millinery and ladies furnishings	2 beauty shops
1 millinery	1 hearing aid service
1 meat market	
1 groceries and baker's stuffs	1 drug store
2 pharmacies	2 cafes
1 restaurant	1 motel & restaurant
1 hotel and restaurant	

1. The Winthrop News Dec. 1, 1904.



1 hotel	1 tavern & restaurant
2 boarding houses	
2 barbers	1 barber
1 furniture store & undertaking	1 furniture store
1 jeweler, optical goods and musical instruments	1 funeral home
2 insurance	1 jeweler & watch repair
1 real estate & insurance	4 insurance
1 photographer	1 real estate & insurance
3 painters	1 sign painter
1 painter & paper hanger	2 painters
4 carpenters	1 painter & paper hanger
2 contractors & builders	3 carpenters
2 stone masons	2 contractors
3 buyers of produce	
2 stock buyers	3 produce houses
1 drayman	1 stock buyer
1 junk dealer	3 gas trucks
1 well driller	
1 elevator	1 tiling machine
2 lumber and coal	2 seed corn salesmen
1 news office	1 feed store
1 creamery	1 elevator & coal
2 banks	1 lumber & coal
1 opera house	1 news office
1 veterinary surgeon	1 creamery
1 dentist	1 bank
2 physicians	1 book company
1 manufacturer of ice cream	2 veterinarians
6 capitalists	1 dentist
1 hardware and plumbing	1 physician
1 blacksmith shop	
1 shoe & leather repair shop	1 hardware
1 livery, feed & sale stables	1 garage
	1 shoe shop
	3 service stations (one with tavern)
1 hardware, plumbing, farm implements & vehicles	1 farm implement, tractor repair shop & fertilizer
1 farm implement & vehicles	2 farm implements & tractor repair
1 wagon maker & repair shop	
1 machinest & repair shop	1 appliance & TV
1 harness & saddlery store	2 electricians & plumbers
	1 appliance & plumber

Table III

## Congregational Church Pastors

A. Manson .....	1865	C. W. Davis .....	1922-23
Wm. Spell .....	1865-67	C. C. Hobson .....	1924-26
L. W. Brintnall .....	1867-75	C. H. Pillasch ....	March 1927-
E. J. Carpenter .....	1875-78		November 1927
Roswell Foster .....	1878-79	R. W. Cross <sup>1</sup> ..	February 1928-
L. W. Brintnall .....	1879-83		October 1928
G. M. Orvis .....	1884-94	G. F. Fowler .....	1929-36
C. B. Carlisle .....	1894-97	B. R. Bauman .....	1936-40
A. L. Dunton .....	1898-1900	F. M. Strange .....	1940-46
D. W. Spiker .....	1900-02	O. O. Hobson .....	1946-47
G. W. Ramsay .....	1902-08	Arthur Hornish .....	1947
I. B. Wadleigh .....	1908-09	Herman Diers .....	1951-
B. H. Cheney .....	1910-12	Robert Porter <sup>2</sup> ..	1952-56
C. S. Holland .....	1912-22	Allen Hermeier .....	1956-

### *Charter members (21)<sup>3</sup>*

G. S. Dawes	James L. Cross
Adelia Dawes	Mary A. Cross
Prosper Brintnall	I. H. Morgan
Amy Brintnall	Clarissa Morgan
E. P. Brintnall	Robert Morris
Wealthy Brintnall	Rebecca Morris
Sarah Hamilton	A. E. Stewart
Ann L. Meffert	Elizina Stewart
Polly Pierce	Pridgeon Hardy
Frank Dawes	Eliza Hardy
Cynthia Dawes	

1. The Winthrop News, July 4, 1929.

2. From scrap book of Mrs. Arley Merrill.

3. Dedication program of new church, May 3, 1914.

Table IV

**Methodist Church Pastors<sup>1</sup>**

Rev. Johnson .....		Samuel L. Bear .....	1915
Rev. Stevens .....	1866	T. M. Nielsen .....	1917
Wm. F. Dyre .....	1871	Robert Davies .....	1920
L. E. Cowgill .....	1873	J. F. Mitchell .....	1921
Eugene Ketcham .....	1875	Robert Lusk .....	1923
G. S. Garrison .....	1885	Frank Frizell .....	1924
Rev. Kidder .....	1887	James J. Kidder .....	1925
Rev. Bowen .....	1887	H. W. Artman .....	1927
J. L. Beatty .....	1887	G. R. Sanner .....	1929
F. H. Wyrick .....	1888	A. Calkins .....	1930
Horace Foote .....	1893	E. D. Wells .....	1931
J. H. Hoskyns .....	1897	T. P. Schaffer .....	1935
F. P. Cassidy .....	1901	Edward Cass .....	1939
H. R. Salisbury .....	1903	M. J. Macaulay .....	1940
A. D. Foster .....	1905	H. E. Morrow .....	1944
A. W. Ownby .....	1906	R. D. Butler .....	1948
William W. Soule .....	1907	John Allsbury .....	1952
S. C. Bretnell .....	1909	L. J. Faris .....	1954
Charles G. Fort .....	1912		

1. Compiled by Mrs. L. J. Faris, wife of the present pastor, from church records and a history of the church written by Rev. A. W. Ownby in 1906.

Table V

**Catholic Priests<sup>1</sup>***Visiting priests:*

Father John Shields	Father Dan Heelan
Father John Gosker	Father Thomas J. Murtagh
Father Thomas Clabby	

*Resident Priests:*

Father James Mulligan .....	1902	Father J. L. Byrnes	
Father P. A. Trumm .....		.....September	1928
.....September	1904	Father D. N. O'Leary .....	1939
Father John McCormick .....		Father J. H. Kriegar	
.....October	1912	.....October	1941
Father J. B. McDonald .....		Father E. J. Supple	
.....January	1928	.....November	1949

1. Data secured from Father E. J. Supple, Dec. 27, 1956.



Table VI

## School Superintendents<sup>1</sup>

John Graham, first teacher

E. S. Stockwell, teacher in building located where M.E. church now is.

Del Webb .....	Stewart Kirkpatrick .....
Walter Robinson .....	(Resigned to go to Army)
M. J. Goodrich .....1879	Mr. Otilie .....
W. H. Hoover .....1895	(Resigned March 1918 to
R. A. Griffin .....1897	become Delaware County
M. J. Goodrich .....1899	Superintendent)
C. G. Sutton .....1903	Mr. Luer .....March 1918
J. O. Murphy .....1904	E. F. Muer .....1919
Walter E. Moss .....	Frank Houle .....1920
H. K. Lockwood .....1908	C. S. Holland .....1922
Frank Byrnes .....1909	John Hunt .....1927
L. F. Riley .....1910	A. J. Jones .....1936
Mr. Kuntz .....1911	Russel J. Baker .....1939
A. E. Jewett .....1912	M. R. Field .....1941
(elected Buchanan Co.	Arthur Pottle .....1944
Superintendent 1915)	H. G. Hayes .....1945
B. T. Adkins .....1916	M. F. Cheever .....1951

1. List compiled by Mrs. Arley Merrill, Jan. 26, 1957.

Table VII

## Civil War Soldiers Buried in Fairview Cemetery

	<i>State from which they served</i>
Frederick Fernald .....	Wisconsin
Andrew J. Hazelrigg .....	Iowa
Tobias Sheeley .....	New York
P. B. Schermerhorn .....	Iowa
Martin L. Stoneman .....	Iowa
Thomas J. Arthurs .....	Pennsylvania
Wm. F. Danforth .....	Illinois
Thomas W. Bucher .....	Ohio
Luther D. Rogers .....	Iowa
Alonzo J. Foster .....	Illinois
Chester C. Jenkins .....	Illinois
Oscar J. Metcalf .....	Iowa
M. J. Goodrich .....	Illinois
Rufus R. Stoneman .....	Iowa
Alonzo P. Foster .....	New York
J. L. Taylor .....	Illinois
Clarence Fernald .....	Wisconsin
Austin Perkins .....	Iowa
George Kirkpatrick .....	Illinois
Samuel Potter .....	Missouri
Uriah J. Thomas .....	Illinois
William Moore <sup>1</sup> .....	Ohio
Howard T. Stutson <sup>2</sup> .....	Iowa

---

1. The Winthrop News, May 26, 1932.

2. Obituary, The Winthrop News, Oct. 17, 1935.

Table VIII

World War I<sup>1</sup>

Servicemen from the town of Winthrop:

*Army*

Leonard Anderson	H. A. Housholder	Geo. B. Postel
Frank Ball	S. R. Kirkpatrick	Elmer C. Postel
Edgar Bloom	Lee M. Lane	Edgar Reed
Harold Bucher	Ralph Love	L. F. Riley
James Collins	Joe H. Love	Lacey Rowan
James Diggins	Ronald McFarland	James B. Ryan
John Diggins	Burr McFarland	Ronald Ryan
Leo Diggins	Bruce McFarland	Wm. Sharp
Edward Diggins	Bernard Muncey	Leland Sheeley
Frank Diggins	Harry Muncey	Dale L. Slaughter
Ed Doyle	A. D. Ownby	Wm. Slaughter
P. F. Gaffney	Harris Parker	Vern Tennis
James Gaffney	Lester Perry	Clarence F. Wilson
O. C. Hott	John R. Postel	Carl Yaw

*Navy*

Floyd Hickman	Geo. McFarland	E. O. Pagenkopf
John F. Kinney	Wayne Meffert	

*Student Army Training Corps*

Fred Hickman	Ned Hickman	Donald McFarland
--------------	-------------	------------------

1. The Winthrop News, May 29, 1919. Lists were also included from Byron and surrounding townships.



Table IX

World War II<sup>1</sup>

Servicemen from the town of Winthrop:

*Army*, all branches, including Army Air Force and Women's Army Corps:

Robert Allyn	L. J. Hefernen	Louis O'Brien
Virgil Bateman	John Holt	Milo Postel
Clair Brace	William Holt	Lynn Postel
Loren Brace	Leonard Hunter	Robert Quigley
John Braden	Frank Landis	Raymond Reece
Frances Callan	Harry Malmgren	Maurice Reed
William Dietzman	LeRoy McCleain	Ronald Rich
John Donlea	James McCleain	Robert Sharp
Dorothy Fawcett	Byron Merrill	Jesse Stutson
Orvil Fernald	Willis Merrill	Raymond Thomas
Gerald Griswold	Kirk Norman	Edwin Wenholtz

*Navy*, all branches, including Seabees, Marines, and Naval Air Force:

Louis Allyn	D. W. Egeland	Delbert Payne
Laverne Bentley	Lester C. Fawcett	Richard Postel
Robert Brubaker	Dean Housholder	Charles Powell
Keith Conrad	John D. Hunt, Jr.	Marvin Reece
Glenn Donlea	Kenneth Jones	Robert Rich
Gerald Dunlap	John Kurtz, Jr.	Glenn Sheeley
Richard Dopp	Adonis Mulneaux	William Stutson

1. Unofficial list compiled by the author from the Roll of Honor.

Table X

## Station Agents

R. B. Crippin .....	1859	J. W. Dietrick .....	September 1884
S. W. Rich .....		F. C. Norman .....	June 1885
Samuel Leslie .....		B. H. Clark .....	November 1902
Frank Ward .....	1863	J. E. Davis .....	May 1917
W. T. Kendall .....		I. L. Hobson .....	November 1917
M. J. Flanagan .....		N. E. Malmgren, .....	November 1934
G. M. Nix .....		M. R. Schiller .....	April 1952
W. T. Kendall <sup>1</sup> .....		D. C. Powell <sup>2</sup> .....	April 1953
S. A. Metcalf .....	June 1883		

The author questions the authenticity of the first list, because a letter from L. W. Rich to *The Winthrop News* in July 1909 says:

"When telegraph first came into use old man Crippin was changed for a man by the name of Frank Ward who could run the paper through the telegraph machine and read the dots."

No mention was made of S. W. Rich and Samuel Leslie.

1. Percival & Percival, op. cit., p. 98.

2. Agents from 1883 furnished by I.C.R.R., John Corson, chief clerk to superintendent.

Table XI

**Postmasters<sup>1</sup>**

The following is a list of the postmasters of Winthrop, Iowa, in order of their service:

Isaiah Hearn .....	August 12, 1853
Lemuel J. Dunlap .....	May 21, 1857
Abbott E. Dulton .....	June 8, 1861
Henry Cornick .....	October 9, 1861
Hiram M. Potter .....	December 18, 1865
Edward C. Kinney .....	April 12, 1869
George O. Farr .....	July 11, 1870
H. E. Palmer .....	June 23, 1871
Smith W. Rich .....	April 3, 1872
Willard Woodworth .....	June 11, 1873
Mark A. Chamberlain .....	January 15, 1886
Stephen Knowles .....	July 23, 1889
James B. Ryan .....	July 14, 1893
Harry Higman .....	June 10, 1897
Joseph H. Riseley .....	July 23, 1913
Harry E. Frantz .....	October 20, 1921
Ben R. Shine .....	February 15, 1934
Mrs. Nelle Shine (acting) .....	May 4, 1943
Miss Thelma L. Jones (acting) .....	April 1, 1944
Frank H. Decker (acting) .....	May 1, 1945
George E. Brubaker .....	June 10, 1949

1. Material from 1853-1934 furnished by the National Archives and Records Service, Washington 25, D.C. Material from 1934-1949 furnished by the Post Office Department, Washington, D.C.



## NOTES

















